Palacios nominates Tenorio to CNMI Superior Court. PAGE 2
Jessel Antonio soars as Savory's 3rd karaoke grand winner. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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PSS

Interim Education commissioner Donna M. Flores and associate commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna join Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School community led by principal Daisy Quitugua on Education Day last week in their school's cafeteria.

Flores praises teachers and staff for the success of PSS

ROTA—During the 35th anniversary of the Public School System's establishment as an autonomous government entity, interim Education commissioner Donna M. Flores also visited Rota and Tinian to directly speak to personnel and staff and praise them for the success of the school district.

"I, together with our asso-

See FLORES on Page 4

PSS

Tinian Middle School and Tinian High School staff and personnel, led by principal Liz Perzinski, fourth left front row, are joined by interim commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores, third left front row, and associate commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna, second left front row, during the PSS Education Day Celebration on Nov. 21.

DPS officer wants to haul DPS to court

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Torres

A Department of Public Safety officer who has filed multiple grievances alleging discrimination against DPS and its former commissioner has asked the Civil Service Commission to issue a final determination on his complaints so he can pursue them in court.

See DPS on Page 4

CCA asks for share of proposed excise tax on imported betel nut

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Manglona

The Commonwealth Cancer Association supports a bill to impose an excise tax on imported betel nut/areca nut and lime mix, but asks the Senate to amend the legislation by allocating 20% of the collected funds for the cancer patient support services of CCA.

In a recent letter to the Senate, CCA executive director Lynnette F. Tenorio said the money will be used to directly

See CCA on Page 4

EVEN WITHOUT GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE

Bill to expand Tinian agriculture homestead is now law

» AG raises 2 legal concerns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A House of Representatives local bill that seeks to amend a Tinian local law by adding the Kastiyu agriculture homestead expansion project has become a law without the signature of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

San Nicolas

Amelia C. Shai, who is the special assistant for programs

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Northern Marianas College nursing graduate Paulaine Sasamoto joins the long list of NMC students who have passed the NCLEX-RN.
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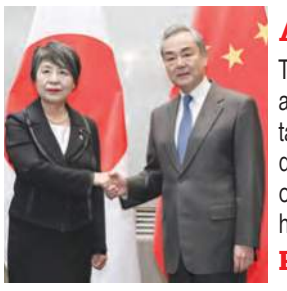
LOCAL
As has become a club tradition, the Rotary Club of Saipan came together last Tuesday at the Office of Aging Center in Garapan to serve the island's elderly with an early Thanksgiving lunch.
PAGE 6



ASIA
Top diplomats from Japan and China met for bilateral talks Saturday to try to resolve disputes including China's ban on Japanese seafood, which has hit Japanese exporters.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Palacios nominates Tenorio to CNMI Superior Court

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios last week nominated deputy attorney general Lillian Tenorio to serve on the CNMI Superior Court. If confirmed, Tenorio will succeed Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan, who will retire in December, 2023.

"Deputy attorney general Lillian Tenorio is a dedicated public servant with extensive professional experience who has served the people of the Northern Marianas in a number of capacities for decades," Palacios said.

"In her work at the legislative and executive branches of the CNMI, she has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of both local and federal laws and a commitment to upholding the principles of justice," Palacios added. "I am confident that she will be an effective Superior Court judge who will continue to strengthen the bench at the Judiciary."

Tenorio currently serves as the assistant for the Attorney General, supervising the divisions within the Office of the Attorney General. She also serves as the primary legal counsel for the departments of the Executive Branch.

Prior to joining the Office of the Attorney General in 2015, Tenorio owned and operated a law firm where she engaged in a wide range of areas of law, including corporate counseling, public policy consulting, administrative law, public utilities, government procurement and contracts, estate planning, land transactions, civil litigation and family law. During this time, she also taught as an adjunct instructor at Northern Marianas College.

Between 2002 and 2004, Tenorio also served as the legal counsel for the House of Representatives, where she drafted legislation, wrote resolutions and committee reports on major bills, researched and drafted memoranda on numerous legal issues, and supervised legislative analysts.

Tenorio also worked as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice John A. Manglona from 1999 to 2001.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Davis in 1984, and earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1999 and received the Julia Raymond McCulloch Memorial Award for excellence in Constitutional Law.

Tenorio was admitted to the CNMI Bar in 2000. She is also an inactive member of the State of New Mexico Bar. ***(PR)***

Lilian Tenorio

CUC cancels boil-water notice

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in Chalan Laulau, Iliyang, Chalan Kiya, San Jose, As Terlaje, Kannat Tabla, Oleai, and portions of Fina Sisu, Gualo Rai, Susupe, As Lito, As Perdido, and Garapan were notified last Nov. 2 of a problem with the water supply and were advised to boil before use.

The results of the water samples taken Nov. 23, 2023, were absent for total coliform or e. coli.

CUC is pleased to report that the problem has been corrected and that the boil water notice is no longer necessary.

For more information, please contact CUC Customer Service at (670) 664-4282 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. ***(CUC)***

CUC

The areas in As Terlaje and Kannat Tabla earlier affected by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s boil-water notice.

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

5.0-magnitude quake in Pagan

At 7:01am on Nov. 25, 2023, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred in the Pagan Region, Northern Marianas Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

5.0-magnitude quake in Maug

At 4:20pm on Nov. 25, 2023, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred in Maug Islands, Northern Marianas Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

Jessel Antonio soars as Savory's 3rd karaoke grand winner

By RANIEL SANTOS
ralphdaniel.santos@uap.asia
CORRESPONDENT

The crowd went wild as soon as Jessel Antonio was crowned the winner of Savory Bistro Café's Search for the Next Karaoke Star Season 3 last Saturday. She received a trophy, a golden sash, and the grand prize of $1,000.

In second place was Beth Ramos, who won $500, while Robby Murillo placed third. Both also received golden sashes and trophies.

Savory's also handed out two special prizes for People's Choice and Crowd's Favorite, which went to Murillo and Ramos, respectively.

The Top 3 winners were the final trifecta of a competition that started with 16 semifinalists and each one performed a song of their choice to determine their viability for the Top 6. That number was then further narrowed down to the Top 3.

Savory Bistro Café held several Friday night weekly contests and was able to come up with the 15 semifinalists that included Antonio, Ramos, Murillo, Bernard Sabino, Donato Santiago, Zen Avila, Adrian Doca, Angie Jolie, Loida Olivar, Jenny Cook, Elmer Belgado, Ryan Arresgado, Jared Barong, Donnel Isip, and John Singson.

From that group emerged the Top 6: Avila, Santiago, Sabino, Murillo, Ramos, and Antonio. They each had to perform one more song to determine the final three.

An intermission was done before the Top 6 was announced. This included a dance performance as well as some raffle giveaways from Savory Bistro Café and sponsors, Pacific Quick Print, and Sunshine Massage. CNMI's Got Talent 2nd runner up Ronilo de Belen sang a Tom Jones classic, while Season 2 winner Alfred Tabora also performed.

Antonio, who clinched the first prize with her interpretation of Fantasia's *I Believe*, said she was shocked when she was named the grand champion. "I really prayed to be the grand champion to provide for my baby and my family's financial needs."

This season's first runner-up, Ramos, who serenaded the audience with Whitney Houston's hit *Try It On My Own*, said that she had gotten sick right before the competition but "the show must go on." She said she is satisfied with the outcome of the competition. "The grand winner deserves it because she really hit the notes. I just praise God for making it this far," she added.

Jennifer Elayda, owner of Savory Bistro Café, had high praises for season 3's contestants. "This is the season where everyone was highly competitive. This batch was super-talented! In fact, we will be having a follow-up to this because many are asking for it and are wanting to join!"

RANIEL SANTOS

Jessel Antonio and her family smile for the camera after she won the Savory Bistro Café's Search for the Next Karaoke Star Season 3 last Saturday.

RANIEL SANTOS

Jessel Antonio won $1,000, a trophy, and a golden sash for topping the Savory Bistro Café's Search for the Next Karaoke Star Season 3 last Saturday.

RANIEL SANTOS

The Top 3 of Jessel Antonio, Beth Ramos, and Robby Murillo pose with the judges and hosts of Savory Bistro Café's Search for the Next Karaoke Star Season 3 last Saturday.

Starting next Friday, Savory Bistro Café will be having a caroling contest, with a grand finale on Dec. 22.

Elayda expressed her delight that Savory Bistro Café is able to hold contests like these and encouraged more people to join future events. "We're doing our best with regards to entertainment and for people to come out with their talents. Savory is here for you to showcase your talents," she said.

The judges for this grand finale were Paul Legaspi, Joseph Mendiola Diaz, former representative Angel Demapan, and Ernie Molina while Ester Sablan served as tabulator. Malou Callejo Lambat and Lance Elayda were the night's emcees.

RANIEL SANTOS

Jessel Antonio sings Fantasia's *I Believe* in Savory Bistro Café's Search for the Next Karaoke Star Season 3 last Saturday.

RANIEL SANTOS

The 15 contestants perform *Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now*, an appropriate song for the grand finale of Savory Bistro Café's Search for the Next Karaoke Star Season 3 last Saturday.

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Drug trafficker wants reduced sentence

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man convicted of drug trafficking in 2016 now wants his sentence reduced, pursuant to a recent amendment made to the sentencing guidelines of the United States.

Huang Xi has filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI a pro se ("without counsel") motion for a sentence reduction pursuant to Amendment 821 of the United States' sentencing guidelines.

Specifically, Huang is asking for a two-level reduction of his final offense level of 35 or, in the alternative, a sentence reduction that the court deems appropriate.

A two-level reduction would lower Huang's offense level from 35 to 33, and the Sentencing Guidelines range applicable to him would be 135-168 months.

Currently, because Huang was sentenced based on offense level 35, the court sentenced Huang to a term of 188 months in prison.

The U.S Sentencing Commission's amendments to the U.S Sentencing Guidelines became effective on Nov. 1, 2023. These amendments address the sentencing disparities in criminal history, including those with no criminal history.

To be exact, the commission made 10 amendments, which have expanded the criteria for sentence reduction. One of those amendments is Amendment 821, which provides a decrease of two offense levels for offenders with no criminal history.

This means if a person had "zero criminal history points" and did not commit a disqualifying offense like sex offense, gun charges, hate crimes and terrorism, then that person may qualify for a two-level reduction off of the final offense level the court based his sentence on.

According to court documents, Huang was indicted on a conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute at least two kilograms of methamphetamine.

At the advice of his counsel, Huang pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge on March 15, 2016. On Aug. 12, 2016, the court sentenced Huang to a term of 188 months, to be followed by a term of three years supervised release.

On May 10, 2017, Huang filed a motion to vacate or set aside his conviction and sentence but on April 6, 2018, the court denied Huang's petition.

CHCC to unveil outpatient pharmacy drive-thru

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After nearly a year since breaking ground on the project, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is set to unveil its completed outpatient pharmacy drive-thru today.

CHCC CEO Esther Muña said in a previous statement that the drive-thru pharmacy provides a safe and convenient access to medicine for the CNMI community, especially after a global pandemic.

RNV Construction is the contractor of the $1.356-million project which was scheduled to be completed by Sept. 30, 2023.

Funding was provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

DPS

From page 1

In a motion he filed last week, DPS Sgt. Peter Raymond Camacho urges the CSC to issue a final determination on his grievances against DPS and former commissioner Robert Guerrero so he can pursue the matter in a lawsuit.

Specifically, Camacho asks the CSC to issue a finding that DPS had retaliated against Camacho for filing a grievance against DPS; that DPS failed to issue his annual performance rating report in a timely manner, affecting his ability to be fairly considered for the employment positions he had applied for; that the Office of Attorney General improperly commandeered the grievance process by injecting itself into the preliminary stages of the grievance process; and that the applicants DPS hired and selected were ineligible for employment under certain examination announcements and that DPS had relied on the faulty certification of those candidates by the Office of Personnel Management.

Camacho is represented by attorneys Robert Torres and Oliver Manglona in this matter.

When sought for comments, Torres said the history of discriminatory and favourable treatment at DPS and the inability of the CSC to ensure due process to civil service personnel pursuing fairness in CNMI government employment and pay opportunities remain unchanged today.

"While officer Camacho remains committed [CSC] would see that lack of funds is no basis to delay due process and so that the proper recourse is to the Superior Court. as previously deemed appropriate in a similar case in history with *Guerrero v. DPS*," he said.

Camacho alleges discriminatory and preferential actions at DPS when it comes to salary raises. He filed his grievances in the form of a CSC appeal dating back to Sept.1, 2021. However, since then, Camacho has yet to receive a final ruling on his grievances even after completing a formal grievance process pursuant to the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations.

Torres noted that no decision has been issued even after submitting a 70-page proposed order on May 5, 2023, as ordered by CSC's then-administrative hearing officer, Jacqueline Nicolas.

"Waiting nearly six months for a final ruling is crippling for Camacho. As the saying goes, 'Justice delayed is justice denied.' Solving claims of discrimination or harm must be done expeditiously. Six months for a final ruling is an abhorrent affront to Camacho's due process rights under the PSSRR," said Torres.

Additionally, Torres argues that the CSC's inability, delay, and reluctance to issue a timely final ruling on Camacho's grievances are a dereliction of its regulatory and statutory duties to ensure an effective, fair, and speedy grievance procedure for civil service employees.

"Camacho asserts that the CSC has violated its regulatory and statutory duties by impinging on his due process rights to seek timely resolution of his grievances under the PSSRR and by further delaying the outcome of its final determination so that he may seek appropriate recourse with the courts," Torres said.

Torres said in his motion that Camacho implores the CSC to issue a final ruling on his grievances within 15 days, or if the CSC is incapable of doing so without the necessary funding that has contributed to its delay, shall issue an order declining to issue a final ruling for the purpose of allowing the parties to pursue its appeal with the courts.

"Whether or not the CSC feels it is inept to issue a ruling without the advice of an administrative hearing office, it is not insusceptible to the requirements of the PSSRR and must issue a decision with or without the assistance of an administrative hearing officer immediately. In other words, if the CSC feels it is not equipped to handle Camacho's formal grievance, it should decide that it cannot perform its responsibility so that Camacho can seek adequate legal recourse with the courts and without further delay from CSC. It is fundamentally unfair for Camacho to have his grievances shelved by the CSC due to its incompetence and unpreparedness when a more capable reviewing, adjudicative body can administer and facilitate his grievances in a timely and effective manner," he said.

FLORES

From page 1

ciate commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna, are here with you today to personally recognize you for your heartfelt dedication and commitment to the job that you all do. It is not an easy job, but it is a 'heart' job that we all do," Flores told Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School and Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School's staff and personnel during the two schools' respective PSS Education Day Celebration on Nov. 21.

"The reason we work for PSS, for our schools, and work together with our parents is because we want them to grow to be independent thinkers and contributing members of our society. It makes a difference to serve and to celebrate each other's hard work and contributions," Flores said.

Sinapalo Elementary School principal Daisy Quitugua led school staff and personnel in a celebration that was held at the school's cafeteria. AmeriCorps' students also joined in the celebration.

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School principal Annette Calvo and Board of Education vice chair Herman T. Atalig celebrated with the school staff with a luncheon in the cafeteria.

"PSS works hard to give our children the education they need in each of our 20 schools, and we know it is possible because we have professionals in various roles and capacities committing themselves to the success of our students," added Flores.

She also praised Atalig for "always sticking it out for our Rota stakeholders."

On Tinian, Flores and Magofna joined the staff and personnel of Tinian Elementary School, Tinian Middle School, and Tinian High School in their celebration.

Tinian Elementary School principal Lou Connie Manglona led in honoring her school's respective "of the year's" honorees at the school cafeteria, which was followed by a special luncheon.

Tinian Middle School and Tinian High School principal Liz Perzinski held a similar activity for the schools' staff and personnel.

"Thank you for caring for our children; thank you for taking time, especially for our children who need extra support and attention. It's not just about classroom instruction but the whole child," Flores told Tinian PSS staff and personnel.

Magofna echoed Flores: "We at PSS central office are not able to do it alone. We have all of you who make things happen for our schools, for our parents, for our children. That's why we extend our un dangkulu na si yu'use ma'ase to all of you."

Flores said PSS couldn't do it alone and thanked BOE chair Antonio L. Borja for "making it happen" not just on Tinian but for all of PSS.

"We are one system even if the ocean separates us. I wish I could tell the whole world that you're all doing a great job—but for now these are the words that I would like to share with our local community," Flores said.

She also thanked Tinian PSS staff and personnel for their support: "I would like to thank you all for your support for my interimship. The job isn't easy but am motivated to go to work every day because I feel respected and well received." ***(PSS)***

CCA

From page 1

benefit cancer patient services on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and not for CCA's administrative costs and operations.

Cancer patient services include providing oxygen tanks, beds, Ensure drinks, and wound-care items for oral cancer patients.

Tenorio's letter was addressed to Senate president Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and Senate Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare chair Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Last month, the House of Representatives passed House Bill 23-41 in the form of House Draft 1. The legislation, which is now before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare, seeks to impose an excise tax at $5 per pound of betel nut/areca nut, and 10 cents per ounce or a fractional equivalent of lime mix/afok/bweesh.

All funds collected from this proposed law will be deposited into accounts separate from the general fund and that 50% of the funds shall go to the Health Network Program, specifically for oral cancer patients' stipends; 10% to the CNMI Division of Custom Biosecurity for operations; and the remaining to the general fund.

The CCC claimed to have provided 23,058 vouchers as part of its direct client services program to cancer patients recovering from treatment over the last five years.

For over 20 years, the CCC has provided direct patient care services to CNMI residents through fundraising events such as Marianas March Against Cancer, and direct government funding.

As the bill was originally written, 20% of the funds collected would go to CCA, specifically for patient support services. The amended bill that the House passed removed the CCA and replaced it with the Division of Customs Biosecurity for operations, with a 10% allocation.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BILL

From page 1

and legislative review, said the Office of the Governor did not timely receive a certification of funds or update regarding the status of funds appropriated by Tinian Local Law 22-02, prior to the expiration of the 20-day deadline for the governor to sign or veto this appropriation bill.

House Local Bill 23-22 became Tinian Local Law 23-06 on Nov. 8, 2023, according to Shai in her recent notification to Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

Shai said the attorney general raised two legal concerns about the bill: The availability of funding appropriated by TLL 22-02, which was signed into law more than two years ago on June 3, 2021; and the mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan being the expenditure authority for homestead development that is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Lands.

Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) introduced House Local Bill 23-22 last Aug. 10. The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation passed the legislation last Oct. 17. The bill proposes to amend Tinian Local Law 22-02 to read that $140,000 is appropriated for the Tinian Marpo Heights, Carolinas Heights village homestead expansion, and the Kastiyu agriculture homestead expansion.

2022 NMC nursing grad passes NCLEX-RN

Northern Marianas College nursing graduate Paulaine Sasamoto joins the long list of NMC students who have passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN.

Nursing graduates must pass the NCLEX-RN to be able to practice nursing in the United States. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are capable of applying entry-level nursing practices correctly.

"It's great to see more and more NMC nursing graduates pass the challenging NCLEX-RN," NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, said. "I congratulate Paulaine on this accomplishment."

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan likewise congratulated Sasamoto on her achievement.

"The Nursing team and I are very proud of Paulaine's accomplishment," Aldan said. "We are excited for her to begin her career as a registered nurse and give back to the CNMI community through her service."

Sasamoto, a 2022 NMC nursing graduate, pursued nursing as a gateway to more opportunities.

"I decided to pursue nursing because I was intrigued that it was a degree that allows me to explore different career pathways beyond bedside care," Sasamoto said.

When asked about what contributed to her succeeding in passing the NCLEX, she discovered she retains information better through practice questions, preparing herself on top of working a full-time job.

"I found out that I retain information better by working through practice questions to gauge what concepts I understand or highlight aspects that I lack knowledge on instead of reading through notes. Since I was working full-time, I tried to do at least 20-30 questions per day and remediate before going to bed."

Sasamoto also mentions NMC in her preparations for the NCLEX, "NMC prepared me for NCLEX by exposing me to the test experience through weekly practice exams and helping me understand how NCLEX determines if an examiner has the critical thinking skills and understanding of fundamental concepts."

She also shares advice to her fellow NMC Nursing students who are planning to take the NCLEX.

NMC

Paulaine Sasamoto, a 2022 NMC nursing graduate, said she pursued nursing as a gateway to more opportunities.

"My advice to future NCLEX examiners is to continue to take practice exams to build your testing endurance, always read through the questions to understand what it is asking you, rationalize the answer options to recognize why one answer is more correct than the others and don't spend too much time on a question because you might second guess your answer," Sasamoto said.

Sasamoto is now a registered nurse at the Marianas Reproductive Institute.

For more information about NMC's nursing program, email NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa T. Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6744. ***(NMC)***

Judiciary holds first Family Court Night Session

Family Court held its first Night Session last Nov. 7. Starting at 5pm, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio heard more than 10 cases, most involving child support matters.

Consistent employment is important for making regular child support payments. In the past, frequent court appearances often led to reduced hours and clashed with work schedules, creating challenges for separated parents supporting their children. Family Court's Night Sessions aims to address and resolve this conflict, providing a more accessible and convenient way for parents to fulfill their responsibilities without compromising work commitments.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI Judiciary held its first Family Court Night Session in the Guma' Hustisia, Courtroom 217 with Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio presiding last Nov. 7. From back left, law clerk James Hallisey, associate judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, and deputy clerk I Gregorio Tudela. From front left, acting family court manager Roxanne Torres, attorney Janet King, deputy marshal III Roemar Segotier, assistant attorney general Tom Schweiger, and Division of Youth Services caseworker Christine Aldan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, deputy clerk I Gregorio Tudela, acting family court manager Roxanne Torres, associate judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, deputy marshal I Maria Tudela, judicial assistant Sabrina Dela Cruz, law clerk James Hallisey, special assistant to the presiding judge Janina Maratita, and deputy marshal III Roemar Segotier.

"I am happy to see a successful implementation of Family Court's first Night Session. One of the Judiciary's goals is to ensure access to justice. This is a major step towards that goal," said Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro.

"The Judiciary is grateful to Family Court and Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio for starting this program," said Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja. "It will help the community, especially our hard-working parents."

The court will hold its next Night Session on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023 at 5pm. The after-hours docket will continue on every month's first or second Tuesday. Employed parties in child support matters are encouraged to ask about appearing in the next Night Session. Please contact Family Court at (670) 236-9840 or fcd@nmijudiciary.gov for more information.***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: October 31, 2023 CLOSING DATE: November 30, 2032 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary
2024-003	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	$70,000.00 to $80,000.00 per annum (UNGRADED)

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

Request for Proposals

Management of the Koblerville Property and Gymnasium

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting for proposals from qualified and established organizations or agencies to operate the Koblerville gymnasium.

The proposal packets are available at the NMHC Central Office Saipan located in Garapan during regular business hours from Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays beginning November 20, 2023.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on November 29, 2023, at 10 a.m. at the NMHC Central Office Conference Room. Failure to attend the pre-proposal meeting will be considered a non-responsive proposer/offeror. Therefore, submission of a proposal from non-responsive proposer/offeror will not be accepted.

The proposal would be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification and Experience: 30 points
2. Organization and Capacity: 30 points
3. Financial Capacity: 20 points
4. Response to RFP: 20 points

Proposers must seal and mark their proposals "NMHC Koblerville Gymnasium 2023". Proposers must submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of sealed proposal and submitted to the NMHC Central Office, Garapan, no later than 10:00 a.m. on December 20, 2023.

The NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals become the property of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

For more information, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) hereby gives notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Office Conference Room, on Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (07/26/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
  A. Executive Director's Contract Renewal
  B. Upcoming Vacancy on the Board – Tinian Representative
VII. Director's Report
  A. FY2024 Annual Budget
  B. Financial Report – BPL Revolving Fund
  C. Office Operations
  D. Online Payment Update
  E. 2023 Citizens Centric Report
  F. Upcoming National Boards Zoning and Annual Meetings for 2024
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
    1. Memo from SAA for Fiscal Restraint
    2. Directive 2024-001 – Modification of Government Hours for the Executive Branch
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
  A. EA Regulations Update
XI. New Business
  A. Violations of Laws and BPL Regulations (§ 125-20.1-1001)
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Application
  B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

Rotary Club treats *man'amko* to Thanksgiving lunch

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The *man'amko* enjoy a special Thanksgiving lunch courtesy of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Office of Aging in Garapan last Tuesday.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The Rotary Club of Saipan held a special Thanksgiving lunch for the community's elderly at the Office of Aging in Garapan last Tuesday.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

As has become a club tradition, the Rotary Club of Saipan came together last Tuesday at the Office of Aging Center in Garapan to serve the island's elderly with an early Thanksgiving lunch.

With a full on show and meals on hand, Rotarians joined forces to bring Thanksgiving food from Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, entertainment from the Marianas Got Talent group, as well as games and giveaways for the congregants of the Office on Aging, as a form of thanks to the island's elderly.

One of the center's clients, Jesus B. Pangelinan, said he was very grateful to the Rotary for always thinking of them, and that he enjoyed the day.

"It was full of fun and full of food," he said. "We are very, very thankful to the Rotary Club for feeding us today. We're very thankful, we're very grateful."

Man'amko Association president Virginia "Ginny" Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*, "We've had this each year. The Rotary Club of Saipan would make lunch for us and then we have prizes that they give out and we're so thankful to them from the bottom of our hearts. We're so happy."

She said the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), and the Rotary Club of Saipan always remember the *man'amko* every year.

"They are the three main groups that, every year, no matter what, they would do something for us. From all of us, we want to say *siyu'us ma'ase* for thinking of us. This week is Thanksgiving [and] it is a time to give thanks for everything we've received. … And we're so thankful for what we're getting this year. We're saying thank you to the Lord, thank you to our family, and thank you to the food we get."

Rotary Club's William "Billy" Grow, who was the event coordinator, said, " It was teamwork. It was collaboration, everything was working together. I picked up the food, we set it all up, working with Crowne, we were helping put it together; the whole Rotary team. Rotaracts were involved, everybody was involved, so it was more of getting everybody together so it worked out everybody filled in the gaps."

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Das Krishanan said, "This is a community service. Crown Plaza is always willing to support and help. We want to give a good service to the community and the man'amko and appreciate what they are—that's what's very important."

Rotary Interactors and Rotaractors were also present to serve, many saying that they were happy to be a part of the event

Interactors from Marianas High School Gwanpil Son and Alton Cruz said they felt moved by the act. "I think it was very fun and we got to help the people out," said Son. "It felt very fulfilling and it was good to see the people have fun with their friends. We're glad that we get to help them."

"It was a nice get-together with the *man'amko*," Cruz added. "It was great to interact with the older people, and it's really fun watching them sing at the stage."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Several Interactors, Rotaractors, and members of the the Rotary Club of Saipan smile during a special Thanksgiving lunch for the community's elderly at the Office of Aging in Garapan last Tuesday.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Rotarian Joann Aquino and Rafaeli Perry share a hug during the Rotary Club of Saipan's special Thanksgiving Lunch for the community's elderly at the Office of Aging in Garapan last Tuesday.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

One of the *man'amko* bands shares a song with the Rotary Club of Saipan after the club held a special Thanksgiving lunch for the community's elderly at the Office of Aging in Garapan last Tuesday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rotary Club of Saipan president Irene Holl, *Man'amko* Association president Virginia "Ginny" Reyes, and Rotary president-elect Joann Aquino smile for the camera during their special Thanksgiving lunch for the community's elderly at the Office of Aging in Garapan last Tuesday.

Regional agencies unite to combat transnational crimes and IUU fishing

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency director general Dr. Manu Tupou-Roosen and Oceania Customs Organisation head of Secretariat Nancy T. Oraka after the signing of the agreement.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OCO head of Secretariat Nancy T. Oraka, Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police executive director Nicholas Brown, Pacific Immigration Development Community head of Secretariat Akuila Ratu, and FFA representative Alan Rahari after the signing in Suva.

SUVA, Fiji—Transnational organized crime poses a significant and growing threat to national and international security, with dire implications for public safety, public health, democratic institutions, and economic stability across the globe. Accelerated globalization has significantly increased our Blue Pacific's exposure, creating an enabling environment for the proliferation of these crimes.

As a result, the Oceania Customs Organisation, Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police, and the Pacific Immigration Development Community, recently welcomed the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency into their Declaration of Partnership on Regional Security.

Combined efforts to jointly combat TOC will strengthen efforts to prevent and disrupt transnational organized crime groups taking advantage of the Pacific's extensive maritime boundaries, differences in governance, and varying law enforcement capacities. Illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing has detrimental effects on our people and the environment, and often has a nexus to TOC activities such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and weapons smuggling.

The inclusion of FFA in the partnership will act as a force multiplier and strengthen regional cooperation across law enforcement agencies. In practice, FFA members will be an additional set of eyes and ears collecting valuable information and intelligence for the Pacific Transnational Crime Network, as well as being able to access important criminal intelligence, to assist their IUU operations. In 2021, FFA estimated the value of tuna involved in IUU fishing activity in the Pacific was US$333.49 million, highlighting the substantial financial losses incurred due to illegal fishing practices.

Combatting TOC therefore requires a collective approach, and this agreement sends a clear and strong message of our joint intent to strengthen law enforcement to combat TOC, by enhancing our security cooperation and partnerships. It will also greatly assist with coordinating collective efforts, consistent with the commitment of Pacific Leaders on strengthening the existing regional security architecture.

"Transnational organized crimes and IUU fishing pose significant threats to our sovereignty and the welfare of our people," FFA Director General, Dr Manu Tupou-Roosen said. "FFA's partnership with OCO, PICP and PIDC aims to address these challenges for a safer and more prosperous future for Pacific Islanders. It is imperative that we work together to leverage our collective strength and resources to combat these threats and protect the interests of our region."

The increased connectivity among the islands while increasing economic opportunities has also increased vulnerabilities. One significant consequence has been the rise in trafficking of methamphetamine, cocaine, and precursors with the Pacific also becoming a production site, giving rise to local drug markets, and increasing addiction rates.

Nancy Oraka, head of Secretariat at OCO, emphasized the critical situation in the Pacific region, stating, "OCO's partnership with PICP, PIDC and FFA is a crucial step towards addressing these concerns, securing our borders and safeguarding our nations' well-being," Ms. Oraka said. "We are the first line of defense for our Pacific Islands, and it is only right that we work together to combat these challenges that not only threaten our livelihoods but the future of our nations."

PICP Secretariat executive director Nicholas Brown emphasized the urgency of addressing transnational organized crimes and cross-border security challenges in the Pacific.

"This collaboration is pivotal in enhancing our collective efforts to reduce harm and combat the rising threats of drug trafficking, human trafficking, and other transnational crimes that exploit the vulnerabilities of our region. We stand united as Pacific Islanders to protect the safety and security of our communities," Mr. Brown said.

This partnership provides a formal foundation for partners to enhance border security in the Pacific, particularly through the Pacific Transnational Crime Network. This is done through the promotion of multi-agency Transnational Crime Units, collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information and intelligence, the delivery of joint training, strengthening inter-agency cooperation, and the development of regional assessments and reports.

PIDC head of Secretariat Akuila Ratu highlighted the importance of safeguarding borders and addressing the complexities of migration in the Pacific.

"PIDC recognizes the critical need for coordinated action to tackle transnational challenges affecting our borders, including illegal immigration and human trafficking. Our partnership with OCO, PICP and FFA signifies a commitment to fortify our Immigration systems, ensuring the integrity of our borders while upholding the rights and safety of those who seek refuge within our nations," Ratu said.

The collaboration between the partners includes enhanced surveillance and enforcement measures, intelligence sharing, capacity building, and joint operations. The commitment is to make a tangible difference in combating transnational organized crimes, illegal fishing, and cross-border security challenges.

About FFA

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency strengthens national capacity and regional solidarity so its 17 members can manage, control and develop their tuna fisheries now and in the future.

About OCO

Oceania Customs Organisation is a grouping of 23 Customs Administrations in the Pacific region. It facilitates regional cooperation, information sharing and capacity building of its members with the overall target of supporting economic growth and improved border security in the Pacific.

About PICP

The Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police brings together Pacific Police Chiefs to exchange information, share learnings, and form regional agreements. Over the past 53 years, the PICP has worked continuously to build safer and more secure communities by improving policing. There are 22 members in the PICP, with the Commissioner, Chief or Director of Police of each national police service representing the member state.

About PIDC

The Pacific Immigration Development Community was established in 1996 and is a forum for official immigration agencies of the Pacific Region. PIDC enables Heads of immigration agencies to discuss issues of mutual interest and to foster multilateral co-operation and mutual assistance aimed at strengthening members' territorial borders and the integrity of their entry systems. ***(PR)***

PASAI director visits American Samoa

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Territorial auditor Mike Edmonds, center, and PASAI Practice Development director Sinaroseta Palamo-Iosefo, second from right, front row, with staff from the American Samoa Government Territorial Audit Office.

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions Practice Development director Sinaroseta Palamo-Iosefo visited American Samoa recently on a knowledge-sharing mission.

The primary purpose of Palamo-Iosefo's trip was to collaborate with the American Samoa Government Territorial Audit Office on opportunities for PASAI to support building its capabilities and improving audit quality.

With most of the TAO's 11 personnel joining the office in 2022 and the Territorial Auditor, Mike Edmonds, being appointed to the head position just last month, the timing was optimal for familiarizing staff with PASAI's work in the Pacific Island region. This includes technical assistance with strategic audit planning, capability development in multiple audit streams and support to improve other aspects of operations such as human resources and external communications.

Palamo-Iosefo discussed the results of an assessment of the TAO that had been completed using the internationally recognized Performance Measurement Framework. Such assessments identify areas for improvement in all areas of an audit office's operations.

Advocacy of and support pursuing audit office independence are among PASAI's top strategic priorities, so Palamo-Iosefo also discussed the TAO's approach to achieving true financial and operational independence to enable it to fully deliver its mandate.

Palamo-Iosefo explained to staff the use of audit planning templates to comply with international auditing standards. Adherence to the standards enhances audit quality and ensures sustainability of audit practice.

Finally, in keeping with best practice, Palamo-Iosefo completed a quality assurance review of one of the TAO's performance audits.

Palamo-Iosefo left with agreed action points and was satisfied the trip's objectives had been met.

"We now have a good sense of the nuances of the TAO, its staff and the environment in which it operates," she said.

PASAI acknowledges the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Musk is a bigot and a blunderer: Antisemitism and curbing speech in just a few days

There isn't much Elon Musk hasn't made a hash of at the social network once called Twitter. But over the last week, the man who has described himself as"a free-speech absolutist" has gone from promoting a vile antisemitic conspiracy theory to far too aggressively trying to control political debate on X.

And as Musk has trashed his own credibility as the head of what should be one of the internet's most vibrant public squares, the antisemitism watchdogs at the Anti-Defamation League have stepped in it as well. What a mess.

Last Wednesday, a tweet complained about antisemitic rhetoric: "To the cowards hiding behind the anonymity of the internet and posting 'Hitler was right,' You got something you want to say? Why don't you say it to our faces."

A white nationalist then answered the challenge thusly: "Jewish commun[i]ties have been pushing the exact kind of dialectical hatred against whites that they claim to want people to stop using against them…" and proclaimed "I'm deeply disinterested in giving the tiniest s–t now about western Jewish populations coming to the disturbing realization that those hordes of minorities that [they] support flooding their country don't exactly like them too much. You want truth said to your face, there it is."

To which Musk replied "You have said the actual truth."

The odious claptrap Musk so publicly endorsed is essentially the same one that animated the man who perpetrated the deadliest antisemitic attack in American history, the 2018 Tree of Life synagogue massacre in Pittsburgh: that George Soros and other Jews "bring invaders" who purposely and corrosively undermine the cultural and racial sanctity of America.

It was well and good that the ADL under Jonathan Greenblatt took extreme umbrage, calling it "indisputably dangerous to use one's influence to validate and promote antisemitic theories"; and X advertisers started jumping ship; and a White House spokesman said, "We condemn this abhorrent promotion of antisemitic and racist hate in the strongest terms."

But rather than apologizing like a responsible person would, Musk made matters worse. The very man who upon taking over Twitter said he wanted free speech with as few restrictions as possible reacted to the backlash by declaring that " 'decolonization,' 'from the river to the sea' and similar euphemisms necessarily imply genocide" and would therefore result in suspension from the platform.

Greenblatt—who just days earlier had lambasted Musk—praised this as "an important and welcome move," lending it essential support.

We don't in the least bit like either term Musk forbade, nor do we suggest Musk doesn't have the right to do what he wants on the platform he owns. But it's deeply counterproductive for those who support Israel and revile terrorists to try to win the argument

See MUSK on Page 9

You lost Poland, France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, etc. But you still have Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok and X...
ANTI-SEMITISM
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Bird names shouldn't honor bigots and enslavers—or anyone

By TONY BARBOZA
Los Angeles Times

Tony Barboza is an editorial writer focusing on climate change and environmental justice.

The American Ornithological Society's announcement earlier this month that it will end the naming of bird species after people is a decision of refreshing clarity. Because after two years of deliberation, the group that manages the official list of English-language bird names in the Americas came to the realization that instead of changing common bird names deemed offensive or exclusionary on a case-by-case basis, it needed to reframe the issue entirely.

So the group decided it would change the names of all 260 birds in its jurisdiction that are named after people, and three that have "derogatory or culturally unsuitable references or origins." The effort to right past wrongs and make the world of birding more inclusive will affect about 5.5% of bird names the group oversees. The process will begin next year, focusing on about 80 species found in the United States and Canada as the first of four phases.

I appreciate this as an elegant and comprehensive solution that surpassed even the expectations of activists, and marks a meaningful turn for a field dominated by white men that has been reluctant to change.

Not only are these eponyms and honorifics nonsensical—the naturalists who named them after their contemporaries did not "discover" them any more than Columbus discovered the Americas. They are also alienating, part of an antiquated and repugnant landscape of animal, plant and place names that exclude and demean Indigenous communities and people of color.

Birds don't belong to anyone, after all. Indigenous people in the Americas knew and named them centuries before white settlers arrived, and preserving the naming conventions from the 1800s only perpetuates a culture of exclusion and white supremacy.

I'm not much of a bird-watcher, but I grew up in Colorado hiking and exploring the state's mountains, foothills, plains and creeks and became familiar with some of the most common species, including red-winged blackbirds, meadowlarks and red-tailed hawks. But it's clear even to me that names such as Bachman's Sparrow, Steller's Jay, Cooper's Hawk and Audubon's Oriole are absurd and inappropriately suggest discovery and possession. It makes a lot more sense to use more descriptive monikers that celebrate a bird's characteristics, appearance or habitat and other qualities that are more useful for identification.

There's something especially abhorrent about naming plant and animal species after people who not only held racist views, but committed despicable acts. Townsend's warbler, Townsend's Big-eared Bat and Townsend's Chipmunk, for example, are among the creatures whose names honor a 19th century ornithologist who dug up the graves of Indigenous people and decapitated their skulls to try to prove their racial inferiority, calling them "savages little better than brute beasts."

It's not just living things that have objectionable names. The U.S. is still dotted with towns, mountains, lakes, public buildings and monuments that bear the names of racists, colonizers and enslavers, or slurs against Black and Indigenous people. Though there's sometimes a confounding level of resistance to changing them, it is slowly happening, such as when UC Berkeley Law School dropped the name of its Boalt Hall because it honored a 19th century attorney now known to be an anti-Chinese racist.

In 2020, the McCown's Longspur, a bird named after a Confederate general who fought for slavery and against Indigenous tribes, was renamed the Thick-billed Longspur. And a 14,265-foot peak overlooking Denver, not far from where I grew up, which had been called Mt. Evans after a territorial governor who authorized the massacre of hundreds of Cheyenne and Arapaho people in 1864, was renamed Mt. Blue Sky earlier this year.

These are steps in the right direction.

But it's important to note that the American Ornithological Society's new approach to naming didn't come without resistance from those who would prefer to keep things as they were. The change was championed by activists with the Bird Names for Birds campaign that was launched in June 2020 in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and the incident the same day in New York's Central Park where a white woman called 911 on Black birder Christian Cooper.

Those events ignited a reckoning over the many ways people of color have been excluded and harassed. But the same issues apply to the outdoors writ large, where communities of color still suffer from exclusion and a lack of belonging in spaces that white people have long enjoyed without question.

Building support for avian conservation among all communities is especially important at a time when 1 in 4 birds in North America have disappeared over the last 50 years as humans alter their habitat through environmental destruction and climate change.

Building a culture of inclusion isn't as easy as removing problematic names, but changing the language we use is a decent way to start.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Presidential candidates and the myth of dwindling manufacturing

By BRUCE YANDLE
Tribune News Service

Bruce Yandle is a distinguished adjunct fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, dean emeritus of the Clemson University College of Business & Behavioral Science, and a former executive director of the Federal Trade Commission.

It seems increasingly likely that, for a third consecutive term, we'll have a president who strongly identifies with American manufacturing while believing it needs his help to thrive. Since President Donald Trump's 2016 arrival and continuing through the Biden administration, we've been reminded again and again that America has lost its industrial muscle, that their efforts can recover this might, and that tariffs and subsidies will help "build back better" or "make America great again."

Let's have a little perspective during this next election cycle. Not only is the downfall of American manufacturing mostly a myth, but it's a harmful one.

Trump and Biden have systematically imposed taxes or tariffs on American citizens for broad categories of imported goods and borrowed billions in world credit markets to subsidize the domestic manufacture of such things as computer chips, electric vehicles and batteries. Assuring us that protectionism will even up the nation's trade balance, they never tell us what these policies will do to America's real GDP growth, which over the long term ensures a widely shared standard of living.

Where's the recognition that Americans benefit when people elsewhere provide us with goods and services in exchange for the green pieces of paper that we print? Perhaps these politicians should be reminded that, thanks partly to their deficit spending, we the people consume more than we produce. This means we have to import goods, mostly from countries which consume less than they produce.

Let's say we did want to close that trade imbalance, which Trump—who has happily labelled himself a "tariff man"—pledged to do in 2016. Since then, the U.S. current-account deficit has enlarged from $99 billion to $110 billion in 2019 and $242 billion in 2022. What was erroneously supposed to make us better off ended up making the trade deficit great again.

Meanwhile, tariffs imposed on imports from China, which rose from 3% of the value of these goods in 2016 to 19% now, have expanded to include almost 60% of Chinese products that cross U.S. borders. You, me and American businesses are paying for this. As might be expected, China has reciprocated. Neither government wants lower cost goods reaching their citizens. We in the United States refer to the process that delivers a state-managed economy as crony capitalism. The Chinese call their more extreme version of the idea communism.

But what about that talk of deteriorating economic muscle?

If you were to look at a plot of U.S. manufacturing's share of real GDP across the last 75 years, you'd see a wiggly line that barely heads south: Around 12% in the late 1940s to 13% in the 1970s and then to the current 10.9% in 2023's third quarter. That's not much of a decline.

America still ranks second in the world share of all manufactured goods (after China, with over four times our population). We rank first for chemical products, petroleum products, fabricated metal products, pharmaceuticals and timber products; second for automobiles and tires; third for electrical equipment; and fourth for semiconductors, steel and cement. The U.S. economy is not a 90-pound weakling when it comes to manufacturing muscle.

So why the "Chicken Little" song about America's declining might? Why do candidates call for more taxes imposed on American consumers and deny us the gains from trade? Politicians like to fix things, and more to the point, the strategy works for the canny politician. It's not all that rational for an individual voter, who holds so little sway over an election's outcome, to run down the data and check out the facts. The special interests served by U.S. trade policies, on the other hand, are organized, deep-pocketed and more than ready to support the promising candidate.

Warts and all, international law is still better than no law

By ANDREAS KLUTH
Bloomberg Opinion

Andreas Kluth is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering US diplomacy, national security and geopolitics. Previously, he was editor-in-chief of* Handelsblatt Global *and a writer for the* Economist.

Pundits of all stripes are tearing into one another right now about how to interpret international law. Hamas has indubitably broken it in the worst possible ways. But is Israel doing so as well? As political as it is legal, that controversy raises an older question: What is international law, and does it even exist?

There's no question that Hamas committed heinous war crimes on Oct. 7, when it attacked Israel and sadistically slaughtered about 1,200 people, mostly civilians. It broke additional international laws when it took civilian hostages, and yet more when it started using 2 million Gazan civilians as human shields. All of these acts are illegal in both customary and treaty-based international law.

As for Israel, the victim nation, international law expressly gives it the "right to war" (jus ad bellum) in self-defense. But it also governs how it must fight "in war" (jus in bello). Here, the legal reasoning is clear in theory but slippery in practice. Israel must do its utmost to spare civilians, for example, although legitimate military objectives may justify some civilian deaths, as long as the toll is "proportionate." Is a Gazan body count of 11,000-and-counting proportionate?

Moreover, international law prohibits collective punishment. Is that what Israel exacted when it turned off water, fuel and electricity to the entire Gaza Strip? Israel says no. Others say yes, and point to comments like the Israeli defense minister's, who, in ordering "a complete siege on the Gaza Strip," added that "we are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ominously cited Deuteronomy 25:19, where God tells the Israelites to "blot out the name of Amalak from under heaven." Are the Gazans today's Amalekites?

Ambiguity in international law is one thing; ambiguity about who would even enforce it, and how, is another. That becomes clear in a different context, concerning Russian President Vladimir Putin. He broke a cardinal rule of international law when his troops invaded a sovereign country, Ukraine. But the United Nations has done little—because Russia holds a veto on its Security Council.

Putin's troops then committed additional atrocities, from maiming, torturing, raping and murdering Ukrainian soldiers and civilians to abducting their children, which is part of the definition of genocide. For that latter crime, the International Criminal Court in the Hague—established by the Rome Statute of 1998, a crown jewel of international law—has issued an arrest warrant against Putin and another Russian leader.

But neither Russia nor Ukraine is a party to the Rome Statute. (Nor is the U.S., China or Israel, for that matter, although Palestine is.) As long as Putin doesn't set foot in one of the 123 signatory nations, and arguably even if he does, he therefore won't, in any plausible scenario, get arrested.

The apparent impunity of perpetrators like Putin raises the bigger question hanging over international law: whether it is in fact "law" at all. Thinkers from Thomas Hobbes to Hans Morgenthau stipulated that law only deserves that label when it can be enforced. The enforcer, moreover, needs what the sociologist Max Weber called a monopoly on legitimate violence. Typically that means a national government, which can legally arrest, incarcerate, expropriate or even kill.

But there is no corresponding world government, and hence no international body with a monopoly on legitimate violence. The global system is therefore said to be an "anarchical society." To some legal philosophers, international law is thus little more than "positive morality," a set of norms and suggestions, easily ignored and unenforceable.

Others throughout the ages, however, have felt that something is missing in that analysis. The greatest thinker in that tradition was Hugo Grotius, a 17th century Dutch humanist and polymath who once smuggled himself out of prison by hiding in a bookcase and survived a shipwreck.

Grotius lived during the Thirty Years War, when more than 60% of the population in some parts of Central Europe perished. Europe's great powers as well as private armies did the slaughtering, and there was nothing to restrain them. As an intellectual—and later as ambassador from one belligerent, Sweden, to another, France—Grotius helped conceive the modern states' system that would emerge from this bloodbath.

Along the way, Grotius also developed the foundational texts of international law, from rules governing ocean navigation (which live on in the UN Convention on the High Seas) to the norms of going to war, and then of waging it—that is, the jus ad bellum and the jus in bello. To Grotius and his heirs, international law was part of natural law, the way things just ought to be.

In the centuries since, a body of customary international law developed, based on precedent and analogous to case law in common-law countries. On top of that are treaties, conventions and agreements, the equivalent of statutes in national law. Starting in the 19th century and into the 20th, the International Committee of the Red Cross pushed international humanitarian law in particular (a modern synonym for jus in bello) and helped birth the Geneva Conventions and its protocols. The Charter of the United Nations and conventions on everything from trade to labor standards and space exploration round out the system.

International law is thus both ubiquitous and indispensable. It works best during peacetime, when countries feel most bound by reciprocity—I won't drill for oil on your continental shelf, as long as you don't drill on mine. But once countries or leaders feel that vital interests are at stake, and especially once they go to war, they often ignore the law, as Putin does. (That said, he did skip a summit in South Africa, which is a signatory to the ICC—perhaps he was nervous about getting arrested after all.)

However imperfect, though, international law makes life for many people less nasty, brutish and short than it would otherwise be—than it was during the Thirty Years War, say. It restrains combatants by separating the why of war from the how—as Charli Carpenter at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst puts it, by distinguishing "between 'civilized' violence and outright barbarity." It gives moderates in every society a language in which to address and temper the bloodthirsty in their own ranks and to hold them individually accountable after the guns fall silent. It maintains norms of humanity.

You may lean Hobbesian or Grotian, realist or idealist. You may doubt international law is even a thing or swear by it. You may think it is failing in the Gaza Strip or preventing even worse suffering. But let us be grateful that international law exists, for the alternative is worse. That's enough reason to defend it.

MUSK

From page 8

by censoring speech, that, while often used by Jew-haters, has legitimate uses as well.

Don't hold your breath to see if X suspends the accounts of those who call for the restoration of Judea and Samaria—or, put another way, the creation of a unified Israel from the river to the sea. Or if it will take action against those who embraced the casting off of colonial control in subsaharan Africa, India, the Philippines and elsewhere.

It all would be funny if it weren't tragic.

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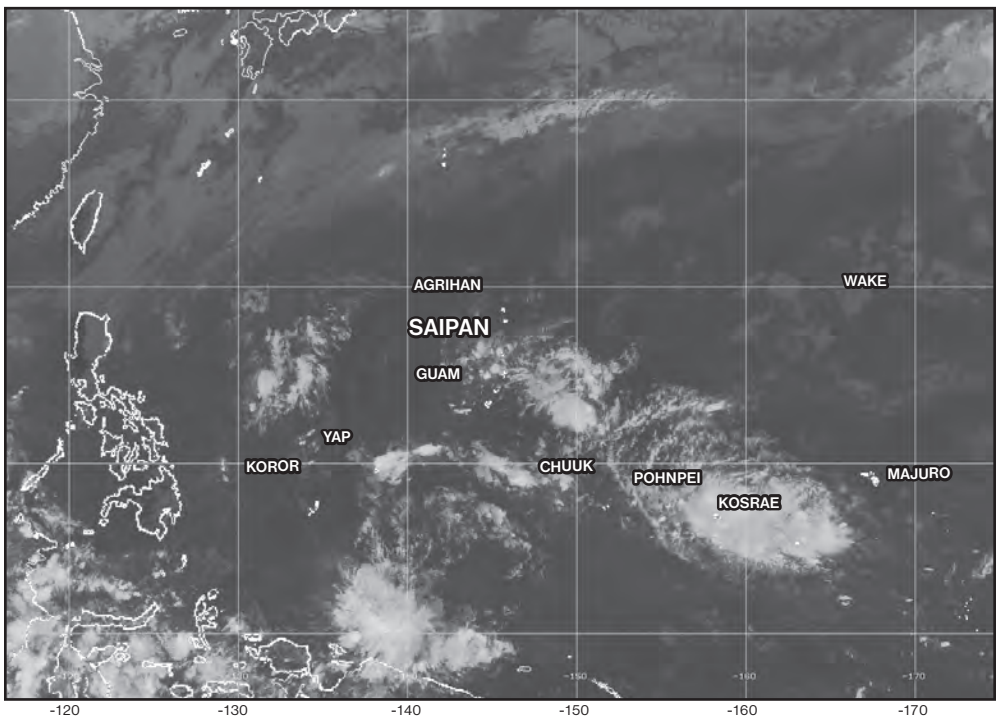
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
86 / 79°	86 / 79°	86 / 79°	86 / 79°	86 / 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:14 AM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery show an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over, and to the east of the Marianas this morning. Northeast winds were also over the local area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	72° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	34° / 19°
Hong Kong	Showers	79° / 72°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 73°
London	Mostly Sunny	43° / 36°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	75° / 55°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	93° / 70°
Miami	Thunderstorms	79° / 73°
New York	Sunny	57° / 47°
Osaka	Showers	64° / 52°
Paris	Showers	46° / 32°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	55° / 48°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	54° / 36°
Salem	Sunny	67° / 47°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 48°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	37° / 19°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Washington, DC	Sunny	61° / 43°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:57 AM	5:30 PM
Tuesday	-	6:57 AM	6:22 PM
Wednesday	-	7:57 AM	7:17 PM
Thursday	-	8:54 AM	8:14 PM
Friday	-	9:46 AM	9:10 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
01:25 AM	Low Tide	-0.53
8:22 AM	High Tide	1.78
1:40 PM	Low Tide	1.03
6:38 PM	High Tide	1.86

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

TO LURE HESITANT SHOPPERS

Retailers offer bigger discounts

AP

People shop at Mall of America for Black Friday deals, Friday, Nov. 24, 2023, in Bloomington, Minn.

NEW YORK (AP)—Shoppers venturing out to malls and stores on Black Friday found perks from champagne to virtual reality experiences and old-fashioned doorbusters, as retailers tried to entice customers who are resisting splurges and impulse buying this year.

Consumers are under pressure as their savings dwindle and their credit card debt grows. Inflation has eased but many goods and services like meat and rent are still far higher than they were three years ago.

Yvonne Carey, 72, was among the first shoppers at Macy's Herald Square store in Manhattan where she snapped up discounted Michael Kors slippers and Ugg boots for herself. But Carey said she plans to stick to the same $1,000 budget as last year as she shops for gifts for her six grandchildren and her husband.

"The prices are crazy on everything food, clothes," Carey said.

Many retailers ordered fewer goods for this holiday season and pushed holiday sales earlier in October than last year to help shoppers spread out their spending. The trend for an early shopping push became more pronounced in 2021, when clogs in the supply network made people buy early for fear of not getting what they wanted. But this year, retailers said more shoppers were willing to wait until the last minute in hopes of finding better deals.

"In this economy it's really hard. We had to save some gift cards. We've been saving for like months ahead, to try and make it work, keep it normal," said Damaris Fay Bayard, shopping with her husband and daughter at a mall in Metairie, Louisiana.

Gone are the Black Fridays of years ago when customers would stand in line for hours in the middle of the night, or brawls would break out over high demand items. But Black Friday shopping remains a favorite tradition for many, and retailers tried to reward devotees with steeper discounts and other surprises.

"Tradition every year, get up at four o' clock, eat breakfast and come in the mall and shop all day," said Martha Stewart, singing and giddily looking through her shopping bags at Lakeside Shopping Center in Metarie.

Nearby, Jenell Rayford was delighted when workers at Lakeside popped champagne for shoppers.

"I have champagne and a new pair of shoes in my hand," Rayford said. "I just wasn't expecting all of this."

Russian consumers feel themselves in tight spot as high inflation persists

MOSCOW (AP)—The shelves at Moscow supermarkets are full of fruit and vegetables, cheese and meat. But many of the shoppers look at the selection with dismay as inflation makes their wallets feel empty.

Russia's Central Bank has raised its key lending rate four times this year to try to get inflation under control and stabilize the ruble's exchange rate as the economy weathers the effects of Russia's military operation in Ukraine and the Western sanctions imposed as a consequence.

The last time it raised the rate—to 15%, doubled that from the beginning of the year—the bank said it was concerned about prices that were increasing at an annualized pace of about 12%. The bank now forecasts inflation for the full year, as well as next year, to be about 7.5%.

Although that rate is high, it may be an understatement.

"If we talk in percentage terms, then, probably, (prices) increased by 25%. This is meat, staple products—dairy produce, fruits, vegetables, sausages. My husband can't live without sausage! Sometimes I'm just amazed at price spikes," said Roxana Gheltkova, a shopper in a Moscow supermarket.

Asked if her income as a retiree was enough to keep food on the table, customer Lilya Tsarkova said: "No, of course not. I get help from my children."

Without their assistance, "I don't know how to pay rent and food," the 70-year-old said.

Figures from the state statistical service Rosstat released on Nov. 1 show a huge spike in prices for some foods compared with 2022—74% for cabbage, 72% for oranges and 47% for cucumbers.

The Russian parliament has approved a 2024-2026 budget that earmarks a record amount for defense spending. Maxim Blant, a Russian economy analyst based in Latvia, sees that as an indication that prices will continue to rise sharply.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Andrew Cuomo accused of sexual harassment by former aide in new legal filing

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is being sued by a former aide who says Cuomo sexually harassed her while he was still in office. Cuomo's former executive assistant Brittany Commisso filed the case against the ex-governor in state Supreme Court in Albany on Wednesday. The filing, a three-page summons, came just before the expiration for lawsuits under the Adult Survivors Act, a special law which gave victims of sexual abuse a one-year window for claims that would otherwise be barred by time limits. Commisso was one of at least 11 women who accused Cuomo of sexual misconduct, leading to his abrupt 2021 resignation in a #MeToo-era scandal that marked a severe fall from grace for the Democrat. He has denied the allegations. Commisso's lawsuit alleges sexual harassment and unwanted touching from Cuomo and said she was punished for reporting the incidents. The case seeks monetary damages. Her allegations led to a criminal charge against Cuomo that was eventually dismissed last year at the request of a county prosecutor who described her as credible but said he couldn't prove the case. Cuomo attorney Rita M. Glavin blasted the latest filing. "Ms. Commisso's claims are provably false, which is why the Albany County District Attorney dismissed the case two years ago after a thorough investigation. Ms. Commisso's transparent attempt at a cash grab will fail. We look forward to seeing her in court," Glavin said in a statement.

Chauvin's family received no updates after prison stabbing, attorney says

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—An attorney for Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer convicted of murdering George Floyd, said Saturday that Chauvin's family has been kept in the dark by federal prison officials after he was stabbed in prison. The lawyer, Gregory M. Erickson, slammed the lack of transparency by the Federal Bureau of Prisons a day after his client was stabbed on Friday by another inmate at the Federal Correctional Institution in Tucson, Arizona, a prison that has been plagued by security lapses and staffing shortages. A person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Friday that Chauvin was seriously injured in the stabbing. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the attack. On Saturday, Brian Evans, a spokesperson for the Minnesota attorney general's office, said: "We have heard that he is expected to survive." Erickson said Chauvin's family and his attorneys have hit a wall trying to obtain information about the attack from Bureau of Prisons officials. He said Chauvin's family has been forced to assume he is in stable condition, based only on news accounts, and has been contacting the prison repeatedly seeking updates but have been provided with no information. "As an outsider, I view this lack of communication with his attorneys and family members as completely outrageous," Erickson said in a statement to the AP. "It appears to be indicative of a poorly run facility and indicates how Derek's assault was allowed to happen." Erickson's comments highlight concerns raised for years that federal prison officials provide little to no information to the loved ones of incarcerated people who are seriously injured or ill in federal custody. The AP has previously reported the Bureau of Prisons ignored its internal guidelines and failed to notify the families of inmates who were seriously ill with COVID-19 as the virus raged through federal prisons across the U.S.

Rep. Santos says he expects to be kicked out of Congress as expulsion vote looms

NEW YORK (AP)—Rep. George Santos said he expects to be expelled from Congress following a scathing report by the House Ethics Committee that found substantial evidence of lawbreaking by the New York Republican. In a defiant speech Friday sprinkled with taunts and obscenities aimed at his congressional colleagues, Santos insisted he was "not going anywhere." But he acknowledged that his time as a member of Congress, at least, may soon be coming to an end. "I know I'm going to get expelled when this expulsion resolution goes to the floor," he said Friday night during a conversation on X Spaces. "I've done the math over and over, and it doesn't look really good." The comments came one week after the Republican chairman of the House Ethics Committee, Michael Guest, introduced a resolution to expel Santos once the body returns from Thanksgiving break. While Santos has survived two expulsion votes, many of his colleagues who formerly opposed the effort now say they support it, citing the findings of the committee's monthslong investigation into a wide range of alleged misconduct by Santos. The report found Santos used campaign funds for personal purposes, such as purchases at luxury retailers and adult content websites, then caused the campaign to file false or incomplete reports.

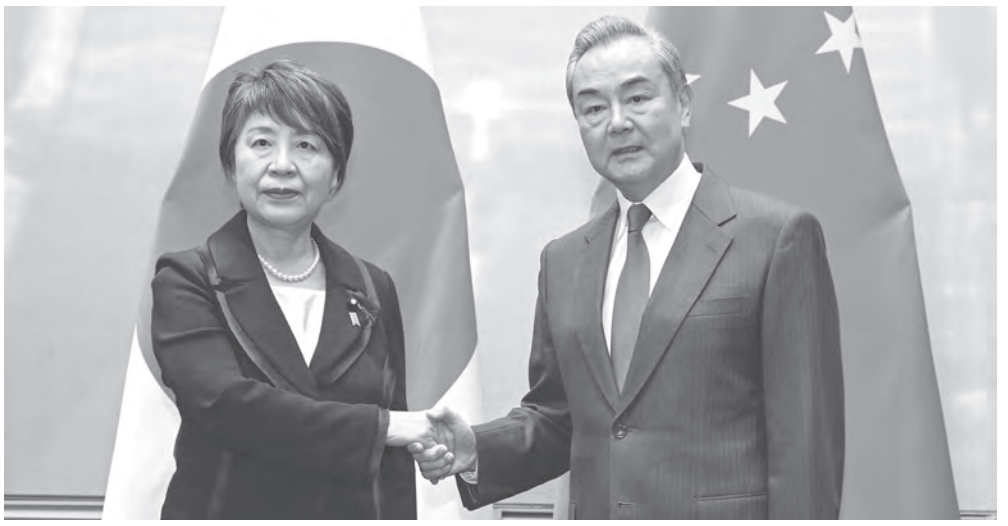
Flight data recorder recovered from US Navy plane that overshot runway near Honolulu

KANEOHE, Hawaii (AP)—The flight data recorder of a large U.S. Navy plane that overshot a runway and ended up in the water near Honolulu this week has been recovered as the military continues to plan for the aircraft's removal. The Navy's Aircraft Mishap Board is investigating on scene at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay, trying to determine the cause of the accident and any contributing factors, the Navy said Friday in a statement. Sailors from a mobile diving and salvage unit retrieved the data recorder Thursday and conducted a hydrographic survey to assess the P-8A plane's structural integrity. The survey also assessed the coral and marine environment around the plane, which will aid them in minimizing impact during its removal, the Navy said. Kaneohe Bay residents have expressed concerns about possible coral reef damage and other potential harm from fuel or other chemicals in the area, which is about 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) from an ancient fishing point. The Navy said it has put primary and secondary containment booms around the airplane, along with other absorbent materials. Specially trained personnel are monitoring the area 24 hours a day. There were no injuries to the nine people aboard the plane during Monday's accident at the base, which is located about 10 miles (16 kilometers) from Honolulu on Oahu. The P-8A is often used to hunt for submarines and for reconnaissance and intelligence gathering. It is manufactured by Boeing and shares many parts with the 737 commercial jet.

Asia

AHEAD OF 3-WAY REGIONAL TALKS

Top diplomats from Japan, China meet in South Korea



AP

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, left, and her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, shake hands during their bilateral talk, in South Korea's southern port city of Busan, ahead of Sunday's three-way talks Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023.

TOKYO (AP)—Top diplomats from Japan and China met for bilateral talks Saturday to try to resolve disputes including China's ban on Japanese seafood, which has hit Japanese exporters.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, met in South Korea's southern port city of Busan. They will join their host, Park Jin, for three-way talks on Sunday.

Kamikawa, who took office in September and met with Wang in person for the first time, said their meeting was "extremely meaningful." She said they had agreed to start security and economic meetings, but gave no details.

Japanese and Chinese leaders met 10 days ago in San Francisco, on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, and achieved a vague agreement on easing the seafood dispute. China's ban on Japanese seafood has been in place since the tsunami-hit Fukushima nuclear power plant began discharging treated radioactive wastewater into the sea on Aug. 24.

Japan says the wastewater is much safer than international standards and that the International Atomic Energy Agency has concluded the environmental and health impact of its release is negligible. China calls the discharge "nuclear-contaminated water."

Wang said China opposed Japan's "irresponsible action" of releasing the wastewater into the sea, according to a readout of the meeting by the Chinese Foreign Ministry. He called for an independent monitoring mechanism for the wastewater release.

Wang said China and Japan should establish that they "are cooperative partners rather than threats to each other, and they should be committed to peaceful development."

The foreign ministers from Japan, South Korea and China will meet Sunday to set the stage for resuming a trilateral summit of their leaders, which has not been held since 2019 due to the COVID-19 outbreak and their complicated ties.

Japan, South Korea and China are close economic and cultural partners, but their relationships have suffered on-and-off setbacks due to a mix of issues, including Japan's wartime atrocities, the U.S.-China rivalry and North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

Digging to rescue 41 workers trapped in India tunnel halted after machine breaks

NEW DELHI (AP)—Attempts to reach 41 construction workers stuck in a collapsed tunnel in northern India for two weeks were again stymied Saturday.

The drilling machine broke down late Friday while making its way through the rubble, stones and metal, forcing the rescuers to work by hand to remove debris in hopes of reaching the stranded workers, but the whole operation has ground to a halt.

Arnold Dix, an international expert assisting the rescue team at the site in the mountainous Uttarakhand state, said that it was unclear when the drilling will start again.

"The machine is busted. It is irreparable," he told reporters. "The mountain has once again resisted the auger (machine)."

Dix said the rescuers would need to pull out the entire drilling machine and replace it to restart the digging. He didn't specify how much time that it would take.

The workers have been trapped since Nov. 12 when a landslide caused a portion of the 4.5-kilometer (2.8-mile) tunnel they were building to collapse about 200 meters (650 feet) from the entrance. The mountainous terrain in the area has proven to be a challenge for the drilling machine, which had earlier broken twice as rescue teams attempted to dig horizontally toward the trapped workers.

The machine stopped working after it had drilled about two meters (6.5 feet) of the last stretch of 12 meters (40 feet) of rock debris that would open a passage for the workers to come out from the tunnel.

Rescuers have inserted pipes into the dug-out channel and welded them together to serve as a passageway from where the men would be pulled out on wheeled stretchers. About 46 meters (151 feet) of pipe has been put in so far, according to Devendra Patwal, a disaster management officer.

Meanwhile, a new drilling machine used to dig vertically was brought to the site Saturday.

World

Israel, Hamas complete 2nd day of swaps

AL BIREH, West Bank (AP)—Hamas militants on Saturday released 17 hostages, including 13 Israelis, from captivity in the Gaza Strip, while Israel freed 39 Palestinian prisoners in the latest stage of a four-day cease-fire.

The late-night exchange was held up for several hours after Hamas accused Israel of violating the agreement. The delay underscored the fragility of the cease-fire, which has halted a war that has shocked and shaken Israel, caused widespread destruction across the Gaza Strip, and threatened to unleash wider fighting across the region.

The war erupted on Oct. 7, when Hamas militants in Gaza burst across the border into southern Israel, killing at least 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting some 240 others, including, women, children and older people. Israel immediately declared war, carrying out weeks of airstrikes and a ground offensive that have left over 13,300 Palestinians dead, according to health authorities in the Hamas-controlled territory. Roughly two-thirds of those killed in Gaza have been women and minors.

The cease-fire, brokered by Qatar and the United States, is the first extended break in fighting since the war began. Overall, Hamas is to release at least 50 Israeli hostages, and Israel 150 Palestinian prisoners. All are women and minors.

Israel has said the truce can be extended by an extra day for every additional 10 hostages freed, but has vowed to quickly resume its offensive and complete its goals of returning all hostages and destroying Hamas' military and governing capabilities.

The plight of the hostages has gripped the Israeli public's attention. Thousands of people gathered in central Tel Aviv on Saturday in solidarity with the hostages and their families. Many accuse Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of not doing enough to bring the hostages home. The releases have triggered mixed emotions: happiness, coupled with angst over the scores of hostages who remain in captivity.

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced early Sunday that it had received a new list of hostages slated to be released later in the day in the third of four scheduled swaps.

In the West Bank, hundreds of people burst into wild celebrations for a second night as a busload of Palestinian prisoners arrived early Sunday. Teenage boys released in the deal were carried on the shoulders of well-wishers in the main square of the town of Al Bireh. But the mood of celebration was dampened by scenes of destruction and suffering in Gaza.

The start of the pause brought quiet for 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza, who are reeling from relentless Israeli bombardment that has killed thousands, driven three-quarters of the population from their homes and leveled residential areas. Rocket fire from Gaza militants into Israel also went silent.

War-weary Palestinians in northern Gaza, where the offensive has been focused, returned to the streets, crunching over rubble between shattered buildings and at times digging through it with bare hands.

At the Indonesian hospital in Jabaliya, besieged by the Israeli military earlier this month, bodies lay in the courtyard and outside the main gate.

For Emad Abu Hajer, a resident of the Jabaliya refugee camp in the Gaza City area, the pause meant he could again search through the remains of his home, which was flattened in an Israeli attack last week.

He found the bodies of a cousin and nephew, bringing the death toll in the attack to 19. His sister and two other relatives are still missing.

"We want to find them and bury them in dignity," he said.

The United Nations said the pause enabled it to scale up the delivery of food, water, and medicine to the largest volume since the resumption of aid convoys on Oct. 21. It was also able to deliver 129,000 liters (about 35,000 gallons) of fuel—just over 10% of the daily pre-war volume—as well as cooking gas, a first since the war began.

In the southern city of Khan Younis, a long line of people with containers waited outside a filling station. Hossam Fayad lamented that the pause in fighting was only for four days.

Ukraine's military says Russia launched largest drone attack since start of invasion

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia on Saturday morning launched its most intense drone attack on Ukraine since the beginning of its full-scale invasion in 2022, targeting the Ukrainian capital, military officials said.

In total, Russia launched 75 Iranian-made Shahed drones against Ukraine, of which 74 were destroyed by air defenses, Ukraine's air force said.

"Kyiv was the main target," Ukrainian Air Force Commander Mykola Oleshchuk wrote on his Telegram channel.

The attack was "the most massive air attack by drones on Kyiv," said Serhii Popko, head of the Kyiv city administration. Ukrainian air force spokesman Yurii Ihnat confirmed later that the air defenses shot down 66 air targets over the capital and surrounding region throughout the morning.

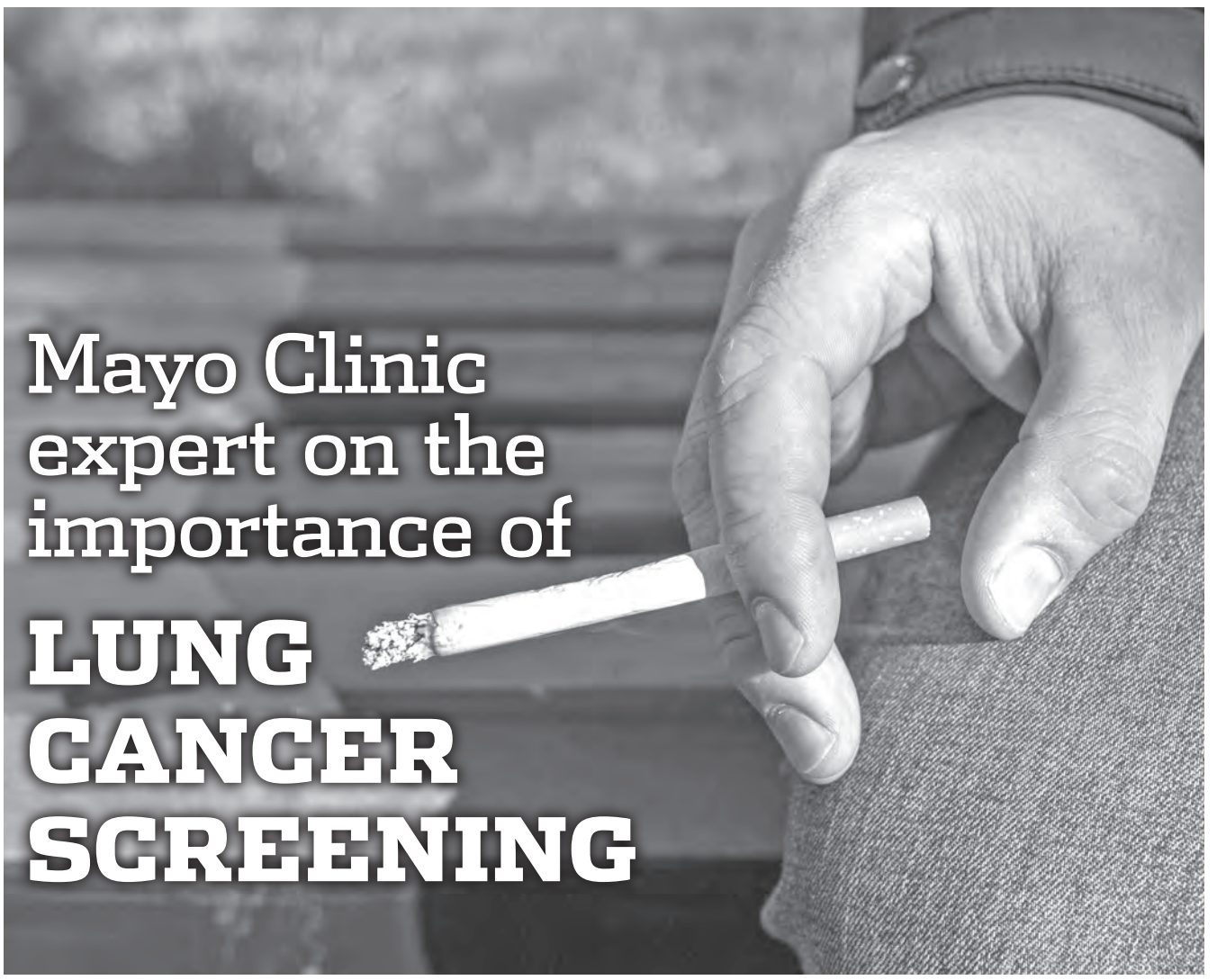
At least five civilians were wounded in the hourslong assault, which saw several buildings damaged by falling debris from downed drones, including a kindergarten. The wounded included an 11-year-old child, according to Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko.

In the city's Solomiansky district, debris left a crater in the courtyard of a residential area, and the windows of a nearby building were blown out. Residents, most of them elderly, received medical attention at the scene. Others took shelter in a nearby subway station. As people were clearing up debris and broken glass in the neighborhood, the hum of a fresh wave of drones could be heard nearby.

The assault on Kyiv began at 4 a.m. local time, continuing in waves for more than six hours, and caused power outages in 77 residential buildings and 120 institutions, according to Popko. Ukraine's Energy Ministry said 17,000 people were without power in the Kyiv region as a result of the attack, noting that four power lines were damaged. Power was restored in the early afternoon.

"Our soldiers shot down most of the drones. Unfortunately, not all," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram. "But we continue to work to strengthen our air defense and shoot down more."

Health & Wellness



Mayo Clinic expert on the importance of LUNG CANCER SCREENING

By DEB BALZER
Mayo Clinic News Network

Screening for lung cancer can save lives, and there's an urgent need for more screening of people of color. That's one of the takeaways from the newly released "State of Lung Cancer" report from the American Lung Association.

"Lung cancer is the largest (cancer) killer of adult men and women worldwide. Many of the reasons for that is it's so late in its stage, often, when it's diagnosed," says Dr. Janani Reisenauer, a thoracic surgeon and interventional pulmonologist at Mayo Clinic. "Historical data show that 70% of lung cancers that were being diagnosed were at stage 3, which makes it much more challenging to treat and cure someone of lung cancer."

"Through lung cancer screening, we've been able to identify patients much earlier in their stage, which gives them more treatment options and much more hopeful chances of cure. For that reason, screening is important," she says.

The latest update from the American Cancer Society recommends that people with a substantial smoking history undergo an annual low-dose CT scan for lung cancer screening. Dr. Reisenauer says the new guidelines allow a broader population to be eligible for screening.

"Any patient with a significant smoking history and over age 55 (are the new guidelines). It used to be just 20 years of smoking, and now we've redefined it to say the number of cigarettes per day times the number of years smoking," she says.

"Even if you were smoking for only 10 years and not 20 years, but you were smoking twice as much, you might also be a candidate under the new screening guidelines for a CT," she says.

Dr. Reisenauer recommends that eligible patients talk with their primary care team to let them know you are interested in screening.

How lung cancer screening works

Screening includes a low-dose CT scan to detect suspicious lung nodules and signs of lung cancer. Detecting lung cancer in its early stages significantly increases the likelihood of successful treatment and cure.

If lung cancer is confirmed, Dr. Reisenauer says a patient will work with a multidisciplinary team to decide the best treatment option.

She says Mayo Clinic continues to pioneer lung cancer treatment through research and innovation, working for better patient outcomes.

"We generate patient-specific individualized custom treatments for those patients, whether it's given IV or a surgery, or something completely novel like through the robotic bronchoscope. Our understanding of how a patient gets lung cancer and how we can treat it to where it's not the No. 1 cancer killer worldwide—I think we'll make much movement there in the next 10 to 20 years," she says.

"And I think screening is a part of that so we can capture these patients early, understand what we're dealing with. But as we're capturing these patients, we are trying to understand how these tumors behave on a cellular, molecular and genetic level. This is very new, and it's an area of interesting science,

Healthy Living

When licorice is bad for you

Some black licorice, easily identified by its sharp taste, contains harmful ammonium chloride, or sal-ammoniac.

Side effects

If you eat large amounts of licorice containing more than 5 percent sal-ammoniac ...

Bones lose calcium Sal-ammoniac changes acidity of blood, causing bones to release calcium to correct the acid imbalance

Blood pressure rises Glycyrrhetinic acid in licorice interferes with hormones that help regulate blood pressure

Source: Danish Center for Human Nutrition, TNS Photo Service

Celebrate with diabetes

ON NUTRITION

BY BARBARA INTERMILL
Tribune News Service

Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian nutritionist and syndicated columnist. Email her at barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com.

OK, Thanksgiving is officially behind us. Let the Christmas carols begin!

But can you celebrate joy to the world if you have diabetes? Here's some good news and some bad news.

Bad news: It's not just sugar and sweets that affect people with diabetes. An excess of any type of carbohydrate can spike blood sugars into the danger zone. What are carbohydrates? Two words: sugars (natural or processed) and starches.

Fruit, for example, is a natural source of sugar called fructose. The good news is that fructose is more slowly absorbed into the bloodstream than sucrose (table sugar). And whole fruit (as opposed to fruit juice) contains dietary fiber, which also helps slow the rise of blood sugar. Any type of fruit (no added sugar, please) is also rich in the important nutrients we need to get through this hectic holiday season.

Starchy carbs—along with added sugar—are found in pretty much everything we crave this time of year: potatoes, dressing and office Christmas cookies.

Here's the good news, though. We all, including people with diabetes, can eat foods that contain sugar and starches. To maintain control of blood sugars, however, it's not OK to pile on too many sweets and starches all at once. Best bet? Balance a reasonable amount of carbs with a healthy mix of protein and non-starchy vegetables.

If this doesn't sound very joyful, consider an easy approach promoted by the American Diabetes Association. It's called the Diabetes Plate Method and is a great visual to help create perfectly portioned meals with a healthful balance of protein, carbs and vegetables.

First, start with a normal-size plate, around 9 inches. No fair using a platter. Then fill half of it with non-starchy vegetables such as salad greens, tomatoes, carrots, green beans, peppers, broccoli or cauliflower. Asparagus, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and mushrooms are on this list, too.

Next fill one-fourth of your plate with a quality protein food such as fish, chicken, eggs, lean beef, soy products or cheese.

Reserve the other quarter of your plate for carbohydrate foods. While this is not particularly easy at holiday meals, it helps give an idea of what balancing carbs really means. Feel free to mix and match grains, potatoes, beans and fruit in this area.

And when sweet treats and special desserts call your name? Consider these options: wait a few hours after your meal to enjoy additional carbs. This gives your blood sugar a chance to settle down. Eat a small serving and eat it slowwwwly. Better yet, check your blood sugar before and after eating a dessert so you can monitor how this particular indulgence affects you.

Sound boring? Surprise yourself! Check out some yummy diabetes-friendly recipes approved by the American Diabetes Association at Diabetes Food Hub (https://www.diabetesfoodhub.org/). May it be a joyful holiday season.

Life & Style

BALLOONS, BANDS AND SANTA

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade ushers in holiday season in New York

NEW YORK (AP)—Beloved characters like Snoopy and SpongeBob SquarePants soared through the skies above New York City on Thursday and bands marched along the streets below as the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade ushered in the holiday season.

The parade started on Manhattan's Upper West Side making its way alongside Central Park in front of big crowds and a national television audience before ending in front of Macy's flagship store on 34th Street.

Among the big names performing is Cher, who just released her first Christmas album. The Oscar-, Emmy- and Grammy Award-winner has a prime spot—performing just before the arrival of Santa Claus, which marks the end of the parade.

Other celebrities and musical groups taking part include Jon Batiste, Bell Biv DeVoe, Brandy, Jessie James Decker, Pentatonix and Miss America 2023 Grace Stanke. The parade also includes performances from the casts of some Broadway shows.

The parade was briefly disrupted when about a half-dozen protesters in jumpsuits covered in fake blood glued themselves to the street just in front of a float carrying characters from the fast food giant McDonald's. They carried a banner that said "Free Palestine" and "Genocide then. Genocide now" and were taken into custody.

The parade continued as police worked.

New balloons debuting this year include Leo the lizard, a character from a Netflix film, who is more than 40 feet (12.5 meters) tall, as well as ones that have been there before—like SpongeBob, coming in at 44 feet (13.4 meters).

AP

Kung Fu Panda's Po balloon floats along Central Park West during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023, in New York.

Some characters, like Snoopy, have been in the parade for many years, but this year's balloon is a new Beagle Scout Snoopy version—celebrating the 50th anniversary of his first appearance in the Peanuts comics.

The parade isn't just about what's going on in the skies, though. At street level, the procession includes more than two dozen floats, interspersed with marching bands from around the country and a number of clown crews among the 8,000 people participating, organizers said.

Thousands lined the streets in coats on a chilly, sunny morning. Children were on the shoulders of their parents, shouting as characters like Bluey and Big Bird from Sesame Street passed by.

Terri Brown, her husband and their children, ages 3, 5 and 8, were groggy after the 30-mile (50-kilometer) drive from Westfield, New Jersey. But their faces lit up as the parade started.

"I've always wanted to bring them here since I used to come as a kid," Brown said. "I'm happy it's good weather."

Ross Greenstein drove 10 hours from Michigan to catch the parade with his daughter, who is studying law in New York, as well as his wife and two other children. Before Thursday, he had only seen the parade on TV.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Woman alleges Jamie Foxx sexually assaulted her at New York bar, actor says it 'never happened'

NEW YORK (AP) — A woman has alleged in a lawsuit that actor, singer and comedian Jamie Foxx sexually assaulted her at a rooftop bar in New York in 2015, an incident the actor says "never happened." The lawsuit filed Wednesday in state Supreme Court in Manhattan by a woman known in the documents only as Jane Doe alleges that Foxx rubbed her breasts and groped her under her pants against her will. The suit says she and a friend were seated at a table next to Foxx's at Catch NYC in 2015. The woman's asked Foxx for a photo, and the two women took several pictures with him, the suit says. It says that afterward, he began complimenting her "super model body" and told her she looked like the actor Gabrielle Union.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs accused of sexual abuse by two more women

NEW YORK (AP) — Two more women have come forward to accuse Sean "Diddy" Combs of sexual abuse, one week after the music mogul settled a separate lawsuit with the singer Cassie that contained allegations of rape and physical abuse. Both of the new suits were filed Thursday on the eve of the expiration of the Adult Survivors Act, a New York law permitting victims of sexual abuse a one-year window to file civil action regardless of the statute of limitations. The filings detail acts of sexual assault, beatings and forced drugging allegedly committed in the early 1990s by Combs, then a talent director, party promoter and rising figure in New York City's hip-hop community. One of the accusers, Joi Dickerson, said she was a 19-year-old student at Syracuse University when she agreed to meet Combs at a restaurant in Harlem in 1991. After their date, Combs "intentionally drugged" her, then brought her home and sexually assaulted her, according to the filing.

Daryl Hall is suing John Oates over plan to sell stake in joint venture. A judge has paused the sale

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Daryl Hall has sued his longtime music partner John Oates, arguing that his plan to sell off his share of a joint venture would violate the terms of a business agreement the Hall & Oates duo had forged. The move quickly prompted a judge to temporarily block the sale while legal proceedings and a previously initiated arbitration continue.

A Nashville chancery court judge issued the temporary restraining order on Nov. 16, writing that Oates and others involved in his trust can't move to close the sale of their share of Whole Oats Enterprises LLP to Primary Wave IP Investment Management LLC until an arbitrator in a separately filed case weighs in on the deal, or until the judge's order expires — typically within 15 days, unless a judge extends the deadline. Chancellor Russell Perkins issued the order the same day Hall filed his lawsuit, which was largely brought forth under seal, obscuring most details. An order Wednesday by the judge allowed more filings to be made public, though many details about the pair's business agreement and the proposed sale remain under wraps.

Boyfriend's bad advice proves costly to woman

DEAR ABBY: I went to visit a man I was dating and there was no visitor parking available. He told me to park in any space, even though there were signs stating non-residents would be towed. He said not to worry about it, that I'd be there only a few hours. Suffice it to say, I got towed.

He did drive me to the tow yard to retrieve my car, but he didn't offer to pay for my tow charge, or even half of it. I thought it would have been nice of him to at least offer, and that his not offering demonstrated lack of character.

Yes, I know I chose to believe him at my own risk and that I'm responsible for my choices. But I trusted his information. In your opinion, did that demonstrate questionable character on his part?

TOWED IN TEXAS

DEAR TOWED: I'm not sure it demonstrated lack of character, but it certainly demonstrated lack of generosity. If he couldn't bring himself to take full responsibility, I agree he could have offered to pay half the fee. (I hope you put this guy in the rearview mirror.)

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I overheard my adult child speak to his significant other in a way I have heard only one other time. My child was not raised that way. My spouse and our children lived in what I thought was a traditional upbringing. I was shocked the first time and calmly expressed that speaking to another person with those words was disrespectful. I chalked it up to being young and not being mindful of other people's feelings.

Once again, although I was not attempting to eavesdrop, I heard the same language. I expressed that I was disappointed, embarrassed and ashamed of that language directed at another person. I suggested therapy to deal with this, but it scares me to think I don't know my own child and they are capable of such behavior. Is it possible I raised a Jekyll and Hyde or a young adult with no sense of pride or manners?

NOT MY CHILD

DEAR NOT MY CHILD: It is possible that you raised an adult child who has trouble controlling their temper and forgets that vulgarity and disrespect lessen the target's respect for the invective-thrower. Therapy might help if your child is open to it, but having suggested it, the time has come for you to step out of this unfortunate scenario. (The exception would be if you are afraid the verbal abuse could escalate.)

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a single, childless aunt/great aunt. For decades I took on the task of traveling to visit family while the kids were young. No problem. But I've recently learned the now-adult kids have been in my area and never contacted me. I was extremely hurt and let them know it when the opportunity presented itself. I am also insulted that they would make no effort. My initial reaction is to no longer make the effort. What to do?

ACHING AUNTIE

DEAR AUNTIE: The first thing to do is ask your nieces and nephews why they didn't let you know they were nearby. Once you know the reason, you can decide how much effort you want to make to see them in the future.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

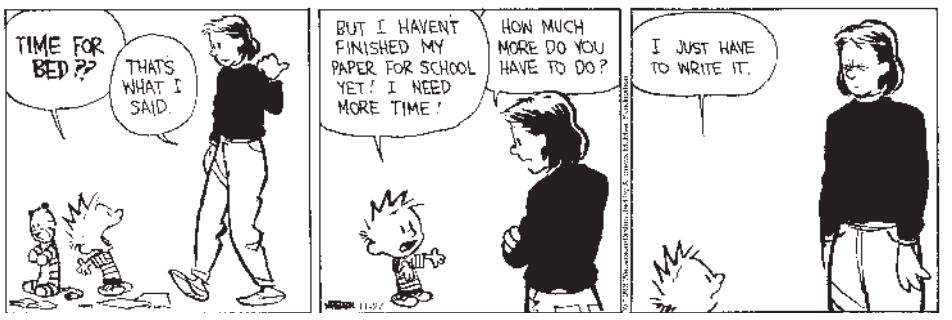
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

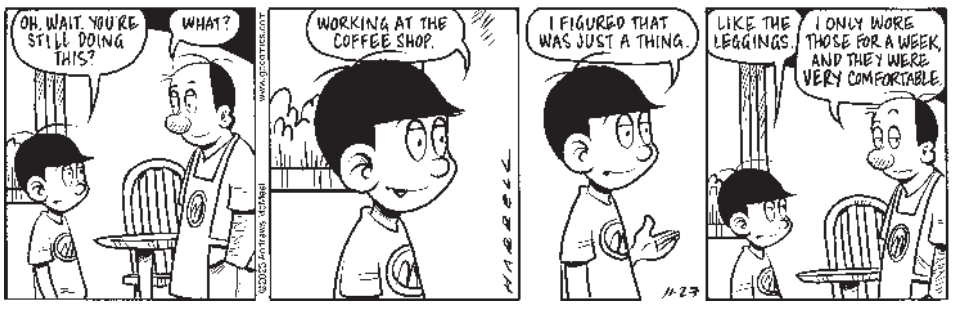

TIME FOR BED??
THAT'S WHAT I SAID.
BUT I HAVEN'T FINISHED MY PAPER FOR SCHOOL YET! I NEED MORE TIME!
HOW MUCH MORE DO YOU HAVE TO DO?
I JUST HAVE TO WRITE IT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

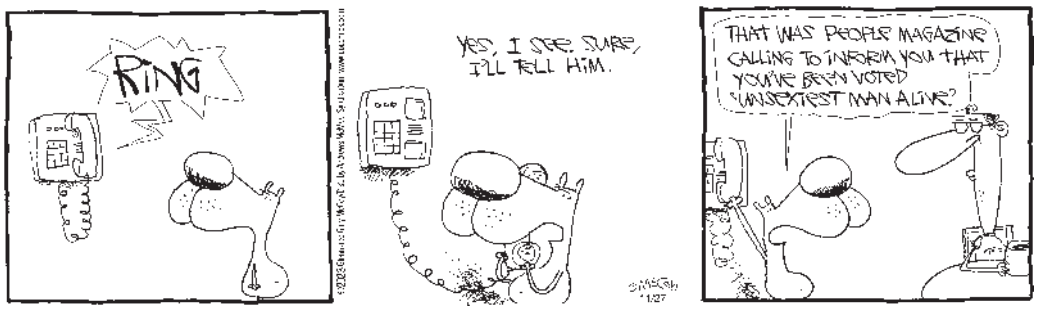
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OH, WAIT. YOU'RE STILL DOING THIS?
WHAT?
WORKING AT THE COFFEE SHOP.
I FIGURED THAT WAS JUST A THING.
LIKE THE LEGGINGS.
I ONLY WORE THOSE FOR A WEEK, AND THEY WERE VERY COMFORTABLE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 John Irving protagonist
5 Six-pack muscles
8 Swiss river
12 Winged
13 Snooze
14 Tech news website
15 Actor Jared
16 Homages
18 Shrimp recipe
20 Inform
21 Senate staffer
23 Kyoto currency
24 Pop without fizz
28 Regretted
31 Comfy room
32 Without interruption
34 Mauna —
35 Campus mil. group
37 100%
39 Unwell
41 iPhone voice
42 Canyon comebacks
45 Highway divider
49 "Recognize my voice?"
51 Bond foe
52 Richard of "Chicago"
53 007 creator Fleming
54 Protracted
55 Bloodhound's clue
56 Your
57 Seth's son

DOWN

1 Guys' dates
2 Mr. Guinness
3 Pro —
4 On time
5 Sophocles tragedy
6 Tavern
7 Whirl
8 More discerning
9 Like some peace vigil attendees
10 Coral formation
11 Online crafts site
17 Lad
19 El —, Texas
22 Idyllic places
24 New Deal pres.
25 Zodiac feline
26 2022 Taylor Swift hit song
27 Silver-white element
29 Snaky fish
30 Calendar box
33 Tragic
36 Sale finalizer
38 Brainteaser
40 Guitar great Paul
42 Waffle brand
43 Nudged
44 Loretta of "M*A*S*H"
46 Press
47 Part of A.D.
48 Eggy drinks
50 "So there!"

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	O	M		A	D	E	S		C	H	A	I
A	B	A		S	C	R	A		O	A	K	S
M	O	R	O	C	C	A	N		D	R	A	T
S	F	A	V	F	R		D	R	F			
			A	N	Y		M	O	R	G	A	N
S	C	O	L	D		T	A	B		R	I	A
H	A	M	S		S	I	N		E	A	R	P
A	R	A		K	O	S		L	M	M	Y	S
M	O	R	S	F	I		I	R	A			
			A	N	O		D	R	I	V	E	S
A	J	A	X		M	O	R	A	L	I	Z	E
S	A	G	O		O	D	I	N		B	R	A
P	L	A	N		N	E	S	T		E	A	R

Last Friday's Answer

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19		■	20					
■	■	■	21			22	■	23			■	■
24	25	26					27	■	28		29	30
31			■	32				33	■	34		
35			36	■	37				38			
■	■	39		40	■	41				■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49						50		■	51			
52				■	53			■	54			
55				■	56			■	57			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alison Pill, 38; Jaleel White, 47; Fisher Stevens, 60; Kathryn Bigelow, 72.

Happy Birthday: Leave nothing to chance. Do your due diligence and proceed with confidence. It's up to you to control and manufacture what you want. Change is apparent but will require a hands-on approach to minimize the mental, emotional or physical cost. Trust yourself, not hearsay. Break down every detail separately, and you can transform your intentions into something concrete. A passionate mind will lead to an exciting transformation. Your numbers are 4, 17, 21, 24, 32, 37, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Stay focused on what's important to you and what you need to do to keep your cash flowing and growing. Learn from mistakes and refuse to let anyone interfere or convince you to do something that isn't in your best interest. Put yourself first. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't labor over what others do; pay attention to what's important and how you deal with matters that affect others. Your actions will be your calling card for when you need something in return. Be the one to make a difference, and something good will happen. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Check your emotions at the door and spare yourself the grief of dealing with people who put you down or use blackmail to get their way. Concentrate on nurturing meaningful relationships and taking care of your responsibilities, and you'll acquire momentum and personal gain. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take better care of yourself, your possessions and what you've worked so hard to achieve. Abide by the rules, get the documentation necessary to follow your plans and leave nothing to chance. Surround yourself with contributors. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Do what's best for you instead of following the crowd or compromising to please others. Too much of anything will lead to disaster. Play by the rules, stick to what's feasible and avoid overindulgence. Stick to what and who you know. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't take on too much. You can make changes, but don't promise the impossible. Structure everything you do to coincide with your time and skills in order to handle matters sufficiently. Make home improvements that offer comfort and convenience. Embrace change; opportunities will unfold. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Explore possibilities, expand your options and learn as you go. Taking courses that augment your skills and build confidence will help you diversify and head in a direction that allows you more freedom to follow a path that offers versatility and peace of mind. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Change what's necessary. Trying to push something past someone will backfire. Offer alternatives and give others a chance to weigh in, and you'll be able to maintain control and keep everyone happy. Honesty is the best policy when dealing with money or joint ventures. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Pick up the pace and control the outcome. Don't make decisions based on hearsay or let someone manipulate you into something that doesn't benefit you directly. Emotional situations will require understanding. Refuse to allow anger to surface when compassion is necessary. Choose self-improvement over changing others. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A proposition will be misleading. Research before making a personal or physical change. The information you gather will help you find an affordable way to improve how or where you live. Play by the rules and do things according to code to avoid setbacks. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Design your space to suit your needs. Create a workspace conducive to achieving goals and a relaxing space that allows you to unwind. If you balance your lifestyle to meet your needs, you'll find it easier to say no to others and feel better about yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Review your situation, friendships and long-term plans. A fresh look at an old plan will offer insight into what will benefit you the most. Change whatever is causing instability in your life and replace it with whatever makes you feel comfortable. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, sensitive and expressive. You are inventive and spontaneous.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2		8	4		5	3		
9	5				8		1	2
3	1		7				8	
					3		7	
8	9	3	2	4				
					1	4	9	3
	8	9	3	5				
		7	1	9	6	8		
5	3						4	6

Difficulty: ★ 11/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	7	4	8	3	9	5	2	1
8	5	9	1	6	2	3	4	7
3	1	2	7	5	4	6	8	9
1	9	8	5	4	3	2	7	6
4	6	5	2	9	7	1	3	8
2	3	7	6	8	1	4	9	5
7	8	6	4	2	5	9	1	3
9	4	1	3	7	6	8	5	2
5	2	3	9	1	8	7	6	4

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MEMES Solution: 8 letters

C	N	P	A	R	O	D	Y	W	R	I	T	I	N	G
G	H	O	S	N	A	I	C	I	T	I	L	O	P	N
M	E	A	I	E	T	C	I	L	O	B	M	Y	S	I
E	M	N	R	T	I	S	A	A	N	I	M	A	L	S
M	E	P	E	A	P	I	I	C	O	M	I	C	S	U
E	S	S	A	R	C	A	S	T	I	C	O	E	S	M
Ⓣ	Ⓢ	Ⓞ	Ⓟ	O	A	T	C	S	R	N	N	T	T	A
I	A	R	S	T	V	T	E	X	T	A	G	I	R	C
C	G	E	V	I	T	A	E	R	C	N	D	S	O	T
S	E	M	R	I	E	C	O	P	I	E	S	B	P	I
O	E	A	I	M	D	V	Y	N	E	Z	R	E	S	V
T	L	G	E	M	E	E	A	N	T	E	E	W	S	I
O	Y	H	A	R	I	E	O	N	N	T	N	O	F	S
H	T	E	S	M	M	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	I	T
P	S	Y	R	O	I	V	A	H	E	B	F	T	G	S

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Last Friday's Answer: Wisconsin

Purchase **WONDERWORD** books in time for the holidays!, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Davis scores season-high 32 points in Lakers' victory over Cavs

CLEVELAND (AP)—Anthony Davis scored 23 of his season-high 32 points in the second half and grabbed 13 rebounds, LeBron James had 22 points and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 121-115 on Saturday night.

James added six rebounds, six assists and two steals in beating Cleveland for the 18th time in 21 career games. The 39-year-old attended St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in nearby Akron and spent 11 seasons with the Cavaliers, leading them to the 2016 NBA championship.

"Tonight was an A.D. game for us," James said. "He needs to touch the ball, and we want him to be aggressive offensively and anchor our defense. He did a great job attacking the basket and guarding the glass."

Austin Reeves had 15 points and 10 assists, Christian Wood scored 13 points and Max Christie had 12 for the Lakers, who won their third straight on the road. Los Angeles shot 52.2% and had 34 assists on 47 baskets.

"Any time you can get that assist number up, it means you're playing the game the right way," Reeves said. "The team did a really good job trying to make winning plays."

Donovan Mitchell, who missed the previous four games with a right hamstring strain, shot 4 of 18 and had 22 points and six assists for Cleveland. Jarrett Allen added 21 points and 14 rebounds, and Evan Mobley finished with 18 points and six assists.

Cavaliers point guard Darius Garland did not play in the second half because of a neck strain, caused by an awkward collision with Christie in the first quarter.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis (3) shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers center Jarrett Allen (31) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023, in Cleveland

"We didn't play how we wanted to the entire game and we didn't complete the mission," Mobley said. "They were executing their plays and we weren't down the stretch. It's disappointing."

The Lakers built an eight-point advantage in the fourth, but the Cavaliers pulled within 113-112 on Mobley's basket while being fouled. Mobley missed the subsequent free throw and James followed with a layup and dunk to increase Los Angeles' lead to 117-112 with 1:12 left.

James extended his league-record streak of double-digit scoring performances to 1,167, raising his point total to an unprecedented 39,060 over 21 NBA seasons. He is Cleveland's career leader in points, rebounds, assists, steals, minutes and games.

"Stepping back on this floor and knowing I was part of pretty much all the banners in this arena, that's pretty cool," said James, who starred on all six of the Cavaliers' Eastern Conference title teams. "It's very special to be a kid from Akron and to have been drafted here and played 11 years in Cleveland."

Earlier in the day, a museum dedicated to his life, "LeBron James' Home Court," opened at his family foundation's House Three Thirty in Akron. Admission is $23, matching his uniform number.

"He's a great young man who has done tremendous things on the basketball floor, in the world of business and in education," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said.

Cleveland had its highest-scoring quarter of the season, leading 40-35 after the first, and its top-scoring half as it carried a 71-70 advantage into the break.

76ERS 127, THUNDER 123

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Joel Embiid just missed Philadelphia's first triple-double of the season with 35 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists and the 76ers ended Oklahoma City's winning streak at six.

Embiid made six free throws in the final 9.8 seconds. The 76ers had a nine-point lead with 49 seconds left shrink to two after Chet Holmgren's basket with 2.5 seconds to go.

Tyrese Maxey added 28 points and eight rebounds, and Tobias Harris scored 16 points for the 76ers, who moved to 11-5, the same as the Thunder. Philadelphia had a big advantage at the free throw line, making 37 of 45 to 21 of 26 for Oklahoma City.

Holmgren led Oklahoma City with 33 points. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 31.

NETS 112, HEAT 97

NEW YORK (AP)—Mikal Bridges scored 24 points, Cam Johnson added 19 points and 10 rebounds and Brooklyn routed short-handed Miami to snap a three-game losing streak.

Brooklyn got double-figure scoring from its five starters, with Dorian Finney-Smith scoring 16 points, Nic Claxton chipping in 13 and Spencer Dinwiddie finishing with 14 points and 11 assists.

Caleb Martin scored 22 points for Miami. The Heat rested Jimmy Butler and Bam Abedayo, a night after blowing a 21-point lead and losing to New York at Madison Square Garden.

HAWKS 136, WIZARDS 108

WASHINGTON (AP)—Trae Young had 26 points and 10 assists and Atlanta handed Washington Wizards its ninth consecutive loss.

Atlanta had lost three of four entering this game, but the Hawks had no trouble with the rebuilding Wizards. They went on a 10-2 run to take a 70-58 halftime lead and were up by 29 after three quarters.

Washington (2-14) fell into a tie with Detroit for the NBA's worst record. The Pistons host the Wizards on Monday night.

Popovich has no regrets telling Spurs fans to stop booing Kawhi Leonard

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Gregg Popovich called Spurs' fans booing of Kawhi Leonard "hateful" and "mean-spirited," and the San Antonio coach has no regrets taking the microphone and imploring the home crowd to knock it off.

Popovich

"Absolutely not," Popovich said Friday night before the Spurs played the Warriors. "It's pretty easy to understand. I listened to it for a while and it just got louder and louder and uglier and uglier, and I felt sorry for him, and I was embarrassed for our city, for our organization.

"Because that's not who we are, that's not how we've conducted ourselves for the last 25 years. It's the opposite of the way we've conducted ourselves, the way we've worked in the community."

While Popovich considered it a "one-off" with the fans' behavior and credited them for their years of support, he still found it extremely disrespectful to treat former Spurs All-Star Leonard, now with the Clippers, that way in his return to Frost Bank Center.

Late in the first half of Wednesday's 109-102 loss, Popovich took the mic and told the crowd to stop the booing. San Antonio lost its 10th straight game.

"It's kind of an indication of the world we live in today. It was hateful," Popovich said. "It was really disrespectful, it was just mean-spirited. We're the team that when somebody comes back to town after having been a Spur, so you first come back to town, we show a video of them. I can remember when Kawhi and Danny Green came back from Toronto, we showed videos of those guys and the crowd didn't react like that. That tells the whole story, and now it's five years later, six years later, and that's going to happen."

Warriors coach Steve Kerr talks to his players about some booing coming with the territory as a professional athlete, but that can cross the line, and it's certainly not expected when it's a player who has meant so much to a franchise. Kevin Durant, a two-time NBA Finals MVP with the Warriors, was welcomed with a warm ovation when he finally faced Golden State for the first in front of fans on opening night last month with Phoenix since departing after the 2018-19 season.

Popovich noted that the amount of hate currently in the world makes the fans' behavior even more disgraceful—not to mention serving to fuel Leonard's play, too.

"I think it's indicative of the way the world works now. There's enough hate the world where I think that's totally inappropriate. It's not what you would teach your kids to do," Popovich said. "... So it doesn't make any sense, it's unwise, so on every level, I have no regrets whatsoever."

NBA investigating accusation Thunder's Josh Giddey had a relationship with underage girl

By CLIFF BRUNT
AP SPORTS WRITER

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Memphis forward Jake LaRavia will have a procedure to repair a corneal abrasion of his left eye that will keep him out at least two to three weeks.

The Grizzlies said Tuesday night that LaRavia will be re-evaluated then and is expected to make a full recovery.

The 19th pick overall of the 2022 draft out of Wake Forest, LaRavia has played five games for the Grizzlies this season, the last in a loss at Utah on Nov. 1. LaRavia was assigned to Memphis' G League team, the Hustle, on Monday and was recalled Tuesday.

This is the third injury update from the Grizzlies in five days starting Nov. 17 with guard Marcus Smart missing three to five weeks with a sprained left foot. The 2022 NBA Defensive Player of the Year, acquired via a trade this offseason, played all of eight minutes before he hurt his foot in a Nov. 14 loss in Los Angeles to the Lakers.

On Monday, Memphis announced Luke Kennard will miss a minimum of two weeks recovering from a bone bruise in his left knee with forward Xavier Tillman Sr. now is considered week to week recovering from his own injured left knee.

Memphis already is without two-time All-Star guard Ja Morant suspended for the first 25 games this season, and center Steven Adams was ruled out before the season started due to needing surgery for a knee first hurt last January. Brandon Clarke is busy recovering from a left Achilles tendon torn last March.

The Grizzlies (3-10) visit Houston on Wednesday and went into Tuesday night's games tied with Portland seven games back of the 10th spot in the Western Conference.

Hill's special TD catch, Holland's INT return lead Dolphins past Jets

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Tyreek Hill got into the end zone, found his new wife in the stands and tossed her the ball for a special celebration.

The game got even better for the newlywed Hill and the Miami Dolphins from there.

Jevon Holland returned an intercepted first-half Hail Mary attempt 99 yards for a score, Raheem Mostert ran for two touchdowns, and the Dolphins cruised past the New York Jets 34-13 in the NFL's first game played on Black Friday.

"It was a momentum swing going into the half," Holland said. "They threw a ball, they threw a Hail Mary, kind of desperation. They knew we were getting the ball after the half.

"Then, boom, you just let up a touchdown."

Tua Tagovailoa was intercepted twice, including one returned for a score by Brandin Echols, but Miami was in control for most of the game. The Dolphins (8-3) cushioned their lead atop the AFC East by sending the Jets (4-7) to their fourth straight loss.

Tagovailoa finished 21 of 30 for 243 yards with the TD to Hill and the two INTs.

Tim Boyle started at quarterback for the Jets in place of the benched Zach Wilson, but New York's stagnant offense failed to get much going other than Boyle's 1-yard TD pass to Garrett Wilson with 4:37 remaining.

"I think we shot ourselves in the foot too many times," said Boyle, who was sacked seven times.

The Dolphins took a 10-0 lead when Tagovailoa connected with Hill, who avoided a tackle attempt by Jordan Whitehead and zipped into the end zone for a 7-yard touchdown with 8:21 left in the second quarter.

Hill took off his helmet, found wife Keeta Vaccaro in the stands and blew her a kiss before tossing her the football. The two were married during the Dolphins' bye two weeks ago.

AP

Phoenix Suns forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots a 3-point basket as Utah Jazz forward Lauri Markkanen (23) defends during the second overtime of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, in Salt Lake City.

"You know what's crazy? Thursday night, my wife says she's going to order tickets right here close to the sideline, so make sure you score in this end zone," said Hill, who couldn't haul in a TD toss on fourth down on the Dolphins' opening possession.

"That's why I dropped the first touchdown pass," Hill said playfully. "She wasn't on that side. That was a nice hat — she wore a hat that could stand out. I could see her from 100 yards away easily."

Hill's touchdown catch was his 10th of the season, making him the first Dolphins player since Mike Wallace in 2014 to have double-digit TD receptions.

With the Jets' offense struggling — as usual — the defense stepped up to get them into the game.

On first-and-10 from the Dolphins 27, Tagovailoa threw a short pass intended for Braxton Berrios, but Echols jumped the route, intercepted the toss and took it to the end zone.

The usually reliable Greg Zuerlein was wide right on the extra-point attempt, and Miami's lead was 10-6 with 58 seconds left in the opening half.

D.J. Reed intercepted Tagovailoa on the Dolphins' next possession, giving the Jets the ball at their 49 with 2 seconds remaining.

Instead of taking a knee and going into halftime down by 4, coach Robert Saleh opted for a Hail Mary—and it went embarrassingly wrong.

Boyle's throw to the end zone was picked off by Holland, who took off down the field, weaved his way past some would-be Jets tacklers — including Boyle — and took it in untouched.

"We took our shot off the interception to try to get one more (score)," Saleh said. "Just a very unfortunate play at the end of the half."

The Dolphins went wild on their sideline. The Jets stood stunned on theirs.

"That was crazy," Miami wide receiver Jaylen Waddle said. "That was one of the best plays I've ever seen, as far as timing. ... It was a crazy play that we needed."

Meanwhile, Jets fans headed for the concourses shaking their heads after another brutal half of football for their team.

"I've never really seen or been a part of anything like that," Boyle said. "But it's a good learning experience."

Mostert's 13-yard touchdown run on the first play of the fourth quarter gave the Dolphins a 27-6 lead — and tempers flared after that.

There was some pushing and shoving between several players after the extra point and the Jets' C.J. Mosley and Micheal Clemons were flagged for personal fouls — including Clemons appearing to inadvertently make contact with an official. Clemons was ejected. Dolphins right tackle Austin Jackson was also kicked out of the game.

Mostert added a 34-yard TD run with 3:35 left.

PACKERS 29, LIONS 22

DETROIT (AP)—Jordan Love set the tone with a 53-yard pass to Christian Watson on the first snap and finished with a career-high-tying three touchdowns, leading the Green Bay Packers to a 29-22 win over the NFC North-leading Detroit Lions on Thursday.

The Packers (5-6) were in control of a game they never trailed, taking advantage of Jared Goff's career-high three fumbles—returning one for a score in the first quarter—and Dan Campbell's aggressiveness on fourth down.

The Lions (8-3) went for it five times on fourth down and only converted once on the final touchdown drive.

Love was 22 of 32 for 268 yards with three touchdowns. He had a career-long 37-yard run on a play designed for him to run on third down late in the fourth quarter to seal the win.

Rashan Gary led Green Bay's dominant defense by forcing a career-high two fumbles, recovering one, and tying a career high with three sacks.

Goff finished 29 of 44 for 332 yards with two touchdowns, including one on a 7-yard pass to LaPorta on Detroit's first drive.

COWBOYS 45, COMMANDERS 10

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—DaRon Bland set an NFL record with his fifth interception return for a touchdown this season, Dak Prescott threw four TD passes and Dallas defeated Washington.

The Cowboys (8-3) extended their longest home winning streak in 42 years to 13 games. Dallas won 18 in a row at home from 1979-81.

Dallas led by less than two TDs going into the fourth quarter for the first time in five home games this season. The Cowboys ended up tying a 55-year-old franchise record with a seventh victory by at least 20 points this season.

Sam Howell threw for 300 yards and had a rushing touchdown, but was sacked at his 24-yard line on fourth down early in the fourth quarter, setting up CeeDee Lamb's touchdown and 2-point conversion catches for a 21-point Dallas lead.

Washington (4-8) lost for the eighth time in 10 games.

Prescott threw for 331 yards in his fifth consecutive game with at least two TD passes. Rico Dowdle, Brandin Cooks and KaVontae Turpin had the other scoring grabs.

49ERS 31, SEAHAWKS 13

SEATTLE (AP)—Christian McCaffrey rushed for 114 yards and two touchdowns in the first half, and NFC West-leading San Francisco built a 21-point lead by halftime in rolling past Seattle.

The 49ers (8-3) won their fourth straight against their division rivals and have a two-game lead over Seattle in the division. San Francisco won its third straight following a three-game losing streak and picked up its 10th straight win against an NFC West opponent.

McCaffrey rushed for touchdowns of 8 and 1 yards as the 49ers built a 24-3 halftime advantage. Deebo Samuel also ran for a 2-yard touchdown on San Francisco's opening possession and Brock Purdy was nearly flawless in the first half, completing 15 of 20 passes.

Purdy threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown early in the third quarter. He finished 21 of 30 for 209 yards.

Seattle's Geno Smith was playing banged up after leaving last Sunday's loss to the Los Angeles Rams in the second half with an injury in his right arm, near his elbow. He was 18 of 27 for 180 yards. He was sacked six times, threw an interception in the first half and nearly had a few more throws picked off.

The Seahawks (6-5) gained 15 total yards on their first five possessions.

Dolphins' Holland calls MetLife Stadium turf 'trash' after teammate Phillips injures his Achilles tendon

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Miami safety Jevon Holland called the MetLife Stadium turf "trash" after teammate Jaelan Phillips injured his right Achilles tendon in the Dolphins' 34-13 win over the New York Jets on Friday.

Phillips was carted from the field late in the fourth quarter, a non-contact injury that reignited the turf-vs.-grass debate among players.

"Since I've been in the league, I've heard the field is trash," said Holland, whose 99-yard interception return for a touchdown in the first half helped lead Miami to the victory. "I don't know the statistics or anything like that, but I do know turf does increase the chances of getting hurt."

Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers tore his left Achilles tendon on the same field just four snaps into his debut with New York on Sept. 11. MetLife Stadium changed its surface—which had been widely criticized because of injuries—before this season. But players have continued to voice their displeasure with the new turf.

Dolphins running back Raheem Mostert was a member of the San Francisco 49ers when he was injured in 2020 and teammates Solomon Thomas, now with the Jets, and Nick Bosa both suffered season-ending injuries on the previous MetLife Stadium turf.

"It's tough, especially playing on this turf," Mostert said. "No player wants to go down with a significant injury. You saw what happened to Rodgers, his very first game within the first series. It just sucks, man.

"For JP (Phillips), he's going to have his space right. He's going to get his mental right and be back stronger and better than ever. We've got to do something about this turf and this playing surface. Obviously, there is still a major problem. It just has to change."

Mostert explained most players prefer playing on grass because of the give the surface provides.

"With turf, you're kind of stuck in that position and it ultimately causes severe injuries," he said.

Dolphins coach Mike McDaniel didn't have an immediate update on Phillips, but said "it doesn't look great" and the team was preparing for the "worst-case scenario"

The third-year linebacker, who'll have additional tests Saturday, appeared to indicate in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, he has a season-ending injury.

"Absolutely devastated," Phillips wrote. "But I feel strength in knowing that this is all a part of God's plan, and that I have an incredible team and support system around me. I'll be back stronger than ever. Fins up."

10 age group winners also take home turkey

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Aside from top runners Victor Nash Santos and Dr. Lily Muldoon, 10 others went home with frozen turkeys 2023 after topping their respective age groups in last Thursday's Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run.

In the U12 age group, Quido Lucas Jambor topped the boys division with a time of 49:59.56, while Kaylen Taflinger was the first among the girls with a time of 58:23.78.

Jireh Wang was the first to the 1,555-foot summit in 41:36.88 in the boys U17, while multi-sport athlete Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez numero uno among the girls in 46:10.70.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. takes a selfie with Run Saipan and Northern Marianas Athletics officials and volunteers following last Thursday's Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Victor Nash Santos was the overall fastest runner in Thursday's Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run.

In the 30-39, Chad Taflinger tore the tape in 48:17.78 to spearhead his age group, while Shawna Brennfleck's 52:18.98 was the fastest among the women.

James Abuy finished in 54:25.84 to win the men's 50-59 division with Jessica Ortizo leading the women's 50-59 division in 56:44.34.

In the over 60 age group, Chong Nam Lee and Elizabeth Kohnen proved that age is just a number after they completed the 4.2-mile course in 1:02:29 and 1:03:21, respectively.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. congratulated all the winners and thanked all the participants, volunteers, and sponsors of the 2023 Turkey Trot.

"I believe this is over 40 years of Turkey trotting in the CNMI! Thank you to all the runners who accepted and conquered the challenge of doing the most lung busting race course in the Marianas! Happy Thanksgiving to you all! Congratulations to the winners...Thank you to our Northern Marianas Athletics officials and volunteers. Thank you to our Run Saipan officials and volunteers. Thank you especially to our police officers from CNMI Department of Public Safety. Without these outstanding men and woman in uniform our runners wouldn't have been safe out on the highway today. We truly thankful for each one of you who helped made today a success," he said.

The 2023 Turkey Trot was sponsored by Joeten Enterprises, IT&E CNMI, Triple J Group of Companies, Current CNMI/MARPAC, and Saipan Vegas Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Lily Muldoon, seen here in a file photo, was the fastest female in last Thursday's Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run.

TEAM

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is the very least that we could do," said Gross. "We did want to have something to bring everybody together during the Thanksgiving break to give thanks—and that is all to you, your families, the Northern Marianas, the sponsorships, that made this possible and the Northern Marianas Sports Association's support. On behalf of myself, it is an honor, and thank all of you for the hard work and everything that you've done to get here, and the work that is ahead of us."

His message to NMSA on behalf of the team said, "We're thankful this Thanksgiving holiday for the opportunity to be at the Games and represent the Northern Marianas. Thank you for all your continued support and guidance to grow and develop athletic opportunities for the people of the Commonwealth."

The team then took an incomplete group photo before devouring the food in the pavilion in front of the dormitory as team Wallis & Futuna and Marshall Islands looked on in wonder.

Va'a team manager Justin Andrew said with being away from family during Thanksgiving, "We have all accepted prior to departing Saipan that we will not be with family and so we are doing well...We did not have or do anything special or specific but kept to our routine."

As for how it's been for the team with being in the Solomons for more than a week, he said, "After morning practice and breakfast, students do schoolwork and others cheer and support our Team NMI—students also join if they are done with schoolwork. Then they all have to be back at the village for their 3pm workout—a one-hour long session."

Athletics coach Greg Igineof said the team is adjusting after the first few days of culture shock, lack of transportation, and training grounds. He's thankful for Gross for helping them with their needs as always and is glad for the accommodation. As for Thanksgiving away from home, he said everybody back home is partying while the team is training or watching other sports play, but it's good they had something planned that Thanksgiving night.

NMI loses to Tahiti in soccer

The CNMI National Men's Soccer Team won the hearts of many after their fight-to-the-death match against Tahiti despite their 0-5 loss—with fouls, rough physical contact, exchanged words, and thrown up yellow cards against both teams last Friday night.

Tahiti needed to score 11 goals to take the top spot away from Fiji, but the CNMI's defense, better gameplay, this time around, and teamwork managed to put them off for the first 30 minutes before they conceded a goal. Their tight defense also allowed just four more goals throughout the match and had more push and attack toward Tahiti's goal than they did against Fiji.

Head coach Michiteru Mita said they played better against Tahiti than Fiji as they regrouped, trained harder, and strategized better.

An all-out brawl almost erupted at the end of the match against some Tahitian players and Fiji supporters who were at the game cheering the NMI team on and police officers had to break it up. Two Tahitian players were then suspended the next day for also trying to instigate a fight against NMI players.

This morning, the NMI team goes up against American Samoa—a FIFA-ranked team—and Mita hopes to win against them to prove that the NMI team, which is not under FIFA, has what it takes to be recognized as one too.

Colisao finishes fifth

The last weightlifter, Joey Colisao in the men's 109-kg+ division, almost grabbed the bronze medal spot but failed his last clean & jerk attempt of 169 kg last Thursday at the Maranatha Hall and settled for fifth place with a total weight lifted of 296 kg.

Gold overall went to Australia's David Liti with a total weight of 405 kg; silver was Samoa's Sanele Mao at 395 kg; and bronze was Australia's Malachi Faamausili-Fala with 330 kg. Fourth was New Caledonia's Kyle Michel with 300 kg.

Weightlifting team manager Gregory Borja said despite their losses, they're still grateful. "A few of the athletes were disappointed that they did not achieve the goals they set for themselves; however, they are thankful for the opportunity they have of competing with world class athletes from the region as they continue to train while preparing for other international events in the near future."

Villanueva reaches quarters

Moris Villanueva made it to Round 3 of the singles match but came up short in the quarterfinals against Tahiti's Reynald Taaroa, 0-6, 2-6, last Saturday.

Player/coach Colin Ramsey also fell to Guam's Camden Camacho, 4-6, 1-6, last Thursday. Junior netter June Yu then lost to Samoa's Leon Soonalole, 1-6, 3-6.

In Villanueva and Ramsey's doubles matches last Friday, they conceded to Tonga's Filipe Huni and Otufangavalu Noa in three tough sets, 6-7, 6-0, 7-10. Last Friday, doubles partners Nason Wessel and Yu also lost their match to Tahiti's Taaroa and Antoine Voisin, 1-6, 0-6.

Wessel has a consolation round singles match this morning.

Results of the golf team will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

Bodybuilding's Christina Tudela and Davy Laxa are set to take the stage today at the Maranatha Hall. Va'a competitions are set to sail this morning as well, and the athletics team will take on the track today too.

LEIGH GASES

NMI goalkeeper Merrick Toves leaps to save a goal in the second half of their game against Tahiti last Friday at the SIFF 1 pitch.

BRONZE

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in at 24.66 seconds to reset the 17-18 age group and national record; Batallones broke the 15-16 age group record in the 100m breaststroke with a time of 1:20.86; and finally, the men's 4x100 medley relay team updated the national record with their time of 3:59.97.

Coach Hiroyuki Kimura said first, he'd like to mention Taiyo Akimaru. "He is our fifth man of the NMI medley relay team. The day before the medley relay, we had a 100m breaststroke event. For that result, Kouki marked a faster time than Taiyo, so Kouki was selected as the breaststroke swimmer in the next day's medley relay. After that, Taiyo focused on being a supporter for the relay team." Kimura added, "I would like to express my respect for his actions of caring for his teammates, his dedication, and his support. It can be said that this bronze medal was won by five people including Taiyo. It was truly a victory for Team NMI."

As for the whether the team as a whole exceeded his expectations? Kimura said no, the results were as expected. "The only unexpected thing was getting a bronze medal in the 4x200m freestyle relay on Day 2. This surprised me. In addition, there were some medals that I had counted but we missed it. So, I feel like it's even."

On the Pacific Games experience, he said, "I think the swimmers did their best despite the difficult conditions. I am sure that this experience will be useful in their future."

"At the end, this year's Pacific Games swimming was a true NMI whirlwind. After suddenly winning a medal on Day 1, they not only raised the CNMI flag on the center pole for the first time in swimming and sing the national anthem loudly, but also reached the podium in two relays, and in how many events did they stand on the finals stage! No participating country could have predicted this. It was truly an NMI whirlwind."

"This whirlwind would not have been possible without coach Richard [Sikkel] and team manager Yuko [Kimura]. We cannot thank them enough. It was truly a victory for Team NMI swimming!" said Kimura

Coach Richard Sikkel, for his part, said, "Super proud of how well the team performed, not just individually, but as a team. As a team the more experienced swimmers took the younger swimmers under their wings and showed them the ropes of an international competition. The men's relay team earned their first medals in the [Pacific Games]."

"The individual accomplishments include many of the swimmers reaching the finals, swimming age group and national records or swimming personal best times, and of course Isaiah taking home two individual medals. In all I'd say the games were successful," said Sikkel.

Sikkel then said the swim team would like to thank their sponsors and the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation for providing this opportunity; and PHI Pharmacy for helping out with the malaria medication.

As of Nov. 25, team NMI's medal count is two gold, one silver, and five bronze for a total of eight medals.

2023 Honiara, Solomon Islands Pacific Games

LEIGH GASES

NMI's Danielle Pablo, blue, facing camera, tries to go for a header against Tahiti during their match Friday night at the SIFF 1.

LEIGH GASES

Team NMI's chef de mission Nick Gross, right, slices the Thanksgiving cake during the team's Thanksgiving get-together Thursday night at the athletes' village.

LEIGH GASES

Zhi Min Jin, fourth from right, poses with other women golfers before their third round of golf last Friday at the Honiara Golf Course.

LEIGH GASES

Team NMI was treated to an unorthodox Thanksgiving feast—pizza and two cakes—last Thursday night courtesy of the Northern Marianas Sports Association.

LEIGH GASES

The CNMI va'a team, led by coach Jason Tarkong, standing, right, during their early morning lecture session in the athletes' village dormitories last Friday.

LEIGH GASES

Joey Colisao successfully completes a clean & jerk attempt during his weightlifting competition in the 109-kg+ division last Thursday at the Maranatha Hall.

LEIGH GASES

Joey Colisao readies to complete a clean & jerk attempt during his weightlifting competition in the 109-kg+ division last Thursday at the Maranatha Hall.

LEIGH GASES

Zhi Min Jin, right, speaks with golf team manager Marco Peter before her third round of golf last Friday at the Honiara Golf Course.

Davis scores season-high 32 points in Lakers' victory over Cavs.

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Sports

10 age group winners also take home turkey.

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Bronze for swim team's last hoorah

» 18 swimming records broken

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—The CNMI men's 4x100m individual medley relay team gave the Northern Marianas its eighth medal of the 2023 Pacific Games after it won bronze in the last day of pool events last Friday night at the Aquatic Center.

Since the start of swimming events last Monday until its last day on Friday, CNMI swimmers racked up four medals—one gold and three bronze—and broke 18 age group and national records along the way.

The 4x100m medley relay team consisted of Juhn Tenorio, Kouki Watanabe, Isaiah Aleksenko, and Kean Pajarillaga and clocked in just under four minutes at 3:59.97 which was good enough for bronze. Gold went to New Caledonia with a time of 3:50.80 and Tahiti won silver at 3:58.10.

Tenorio said of his first leg backstroke swim, "We really wanted a medal for the medley relay, so I really had to focus and trust the boys to bring it back home. All I had to do was come in at the fastest time I could and that's what I did, so I'm happy about the bronze."

Watanabe, who swam the second leg via breaststroke said, "My main goal was not to lose the second-place lead that much and let Isaiah make the big gaps in his swim. When I touched, I came in third so I'm glad I didn't lose the lead that much."

Aleksenko, who did the butterfly swim, said for the team, "Kouki did really well because the swimmers in the breaststroke were really fast; Juhn made a really big gap also." As for his swim, he said he didn't expect to catch up to second place Tahiti, "but I caught up and made a big gap, and thankfully Kean started off really well and also caught up with Tahiti. We almost got second place—we lost by just a second—it was so close."

For the last leg in the freestyle, Pajarillaga said he was second to New Caledonia in the first 50m of his swim, but Tahiti "sped up out of nowhere. In my head, I was like 'dang at least I'll get third and just give it my all. I was really thankful for the team for the lead and their great effort in the race."

In other results that night, Tenorio came in sixth in the men's 100m backstroke with a time of 1:00.24, while Pajarillaga came in last at 1:02.85.

The women's 4x100m medley relay team made up of Shoko Litulumar, Maria Batallones, Julia Jinang, and Frances Raho came in fifth place with a time of 5:05.82.

As for the number of new records, there were seven age group records broken and 11 national records broken.

The updated records were: the men's 4x100 freestyle relay team's time of 3:39.66 broke the national record; Batallones' 50m breaststroke time of 35.09 seconds broke the 15-16 age group and national record; the men's 4x200m freestyle relay time of 8:16.38 broke the national record; Pajarillaga's 200m backstroke time of 2:16.40 broke the 17-18 age group and national record; Tenorio's 200m backstroke time of 2:14.79 then updated the national record again; Aleksenko's 200m butterfly of 2:05.86 reset the 17-8 age group and national record, his 50m butterfly time of 25.31 seconds updated the 17-18 age group and national record, and he went on to update both again in the finals with a time of 25.13 seconds; Aleksenko, in the 50m freestyle of the 4x50m mixed freestyle relay clocked

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The men's 4x100m medley relay team, from left, Kean Pajarillaga, Isaiah Aleksenko, Kouki Watanabe, and Juhn Tenorio won bronze with a time of 3:59:97 last Friday in the Aquatics Center. New Caledonia won gold and Tahiti was silver.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI National Swim Team members, including coach Hiroyuki Kimura, far right, and coach Richard Sikkel, back left, pose for a group photo at the Aquatic Center before the start of their pool competitions.

Team NMI give thanks in Honiara

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—The NMI delegation was far from home and family during the Thanksgiving holiday but still found a way to give thanks as a team last Thursday night after a long day of competitions and training.

There was no turkey and ham this time around, but the team made do with what Nick Gross, the team's chef de mission—on behalf of the Northern Marianas Sport Association—prepared a nontraditional small feast of pizza and cake for the team, as one of only two other delegations besides Guam and American Samoa that celebrated Thanksgiving among other Pacific Island nations during the Pacific Games.

Almost all members of the NMI team gathered and gave thanks for the past week of hard work, medal hauls, training, and camaraderie.

Gross, in his remarks before the team dug into local pizza not familiar back home but was devoured within minutes, said, "I would like to thank all of you for being part of the Pacific Games representing the Northern Marianas. Congratulations to all our medalists thus far. We've had an incredible showing after four days of competition (after the opening ceremony on Nov. 19)—we have acquired seven medals (as of Nov. 23)."

"On behalf of the Northern Marianas Sports Association, it

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LEIGH GASES

Most of Team NMI's athletes and officials pose for a photo before their Thanksgiving celebration last Thursday in the athletes village.

2023 PACIFIC GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS
(As of November 22, 2023 | 6:30PM)

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
New Caledonia	18	15	21	54
Australia	13	11	3	27
Samoa	9	1	2	12
Tahiti	5	14	14	33
Solomon Islands	5	9	7	21
Marshall Islands	5	3	0	8
Papua New Guinea	4	4	7	15
Guam	4	0	2	6
Kiribati	3	0	4	7
Northern Mariana Islands	2	1	4	7
Cook Islands	2	0	1	3
FSM	2	0	0	2
New Zealand	1	2	4	7
Fiji	0	4	2	6
Nauru	0	3	4	7
Tuvalu	0	3	0	3
Vanuatu	0	1	2	3
American Samoa	0	1	0	1
Palau	0	0	3	3
Tonga	0	0	0	0
Niue	0	0	0	0
Norfolk Island	0	0	0	0
Tokelau	0	0	0	0
Wallis and Futuna	0	0	0	0

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